SATURDAY
February 24, 2024

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Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa
Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare
speaking on the democratic principles enshrined in our Constitution

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PM launches projects worth ₹13,000 crore

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Israeli PM proposes plan for post-war Gaza

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Villagers narrate stories of Trinamool man's reign of terror

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DIGGING DEEP

Root to England's rescue in Ranchi Test

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Feasibility study for metro expansion

BENGALURU
The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. on Friday issued bids for consultancy services to prepare a feasibility study report for the expansion of Metro rail corridors to the outskirts of the city. » PAGE 2

Equal distribution of funds in BBMP wards proposed

BENGALURU
5th State Finance Commission has recommended to the State government on equal distribution of funds ward-wise in BBMP and city corporations for equal development of all wards. » PAGE 7

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West pushing Russia closer to China, says Jaishankar

The world must give Moscow more options, rather than 'closing doors' on it, says Minister; he hits out at Beijing for 'mind games' that deter countries from working with other partners

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Standing tall: Union Minister S. Jaishankar with dignitaries at the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

The world must give Russia more options, rather than "closing doors" on it and pushing it towards a closer embrace with China, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday.

Speaking on the last day of the Ministry of External Affairs' annual Raisina Dialogue, Mr. Jaishankar also said that China should not be allowed to play "mind games" that deter countries from working with other partners.

Hitting out at China for breaking agreements and changing its "behaviour at the border" since the LAC stand-off in April 2020, the Minister indicated that China wants the border issues to be resolved while not bringing other international players, namely the U.S., into India's strategic calculus.

"The mind games, which will be played, would be that it is just between the two of us that no other country should exist in our relationship," Mr. Jaishankar said during a discussion on think tanks.

He said India wouldn't "give another country, which is clearly a competitive country, a veto over our policy choices...We should be confident enough to leverage the international system to create the best possible outcome".

Mr. Jaishankar's comments were significant as they come a day after Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane also lashed out at China during a discussion at the INDUS-X forum in Delhi, calling Beijing a "bully". Mr. Jaishankar was asked about the comments as well as his own earlier statement that a "non-Western" P-5 power was opposing India's claim for a seat at the UN Security Council.

When asked about whether India worries about Russia and China coming closer post the Ukraine conflict, Mr. Jaishankar said that it is a mistake for western countries to "railroad Russia into a single option".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

SC questions T.N. govt.'s intervention in ED case

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday questioned the Tamil Nadu government's successful intervention in the Madras High Court to get a stay of summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to five District Collectors in connection with a money laundering case linked to "illegal" sand mining.

"How can the State file a writ petition against the Enforcement Directorate? How is the State aggrieved? How is the State interested? Let the Collectors respond to the summons... Are they not supposed to cooperate with the investigative agency?" Justice Bela M. Trivedi quizzed the Tamil Nadu government, represented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Council rejects amendments to Endowment Bill

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Legislative Council on Friday rejected amendments proposed to Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997. This is a setback to the Congress in the Upper House, where the combined Opposition (BJP and JD-S) commands a majority.

The Opposition, among other things, took exception to the proposal to draw from the income of richer temples (10% of the gross income of 87 temples with annual income of over ₹1 crore and 5% from 311 temples with income of over ₹10 lakh) to a Common Pool Fund to fund 'C' category temples and provide social security measures to over 40,000 archakas of Muzrai temples.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 8

'Make public orders on J&K Internet suspension'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court ordered the government on Friday to publish the final decisions of the committee which reviews Internet suspension orders in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

A three-judge Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai, however, agreed with the government that the internal deliberations of the review process need not be made public.

The court did not delve into whether the reasons or findings of the review committee need to be published.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

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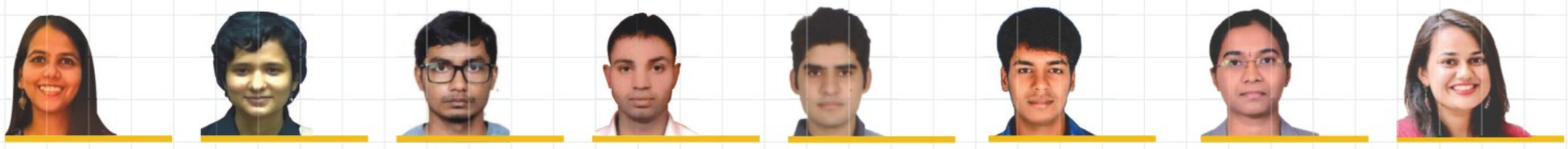

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The unobtrusive, egoless genius of Kane Williamson

A throwback to a genteel past, the self-effacing New Zealander makes a staggering pile of runs without fuss. Currently enjoying a dream run, with seven hundreds in his last seven Tests, the 33-year-old is primed to climb up the list of Test cricket's highest run-getters

GETTY IMAGES

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

Like a steady wind that slips through a half-open window at night, Kane Williamson reigns without any fuss. Not for him the high-octane blend that Virat Kohli dishes out nor the attention that Joe Root and Steve Smith inevitably draw. Williamson would rather say, 'It is what it is', ruffle his beard and, with a philosopher's demeanour, move on in life and score runs. And if they turn out to be a mountain, so be it.

He is one cricketer who is often queried about his personality traits in press conferences while cynical sportswriters inexplicably turn sentimental. You perhaps miss some soft light and the fragrance of incense sticks. This could well be a feel-good evangelist indulging in mass hypnosis. Williamson, if you want to distil him into a Bollywood image, is akin to Shah Rukh Khan's famous outstretched arms in that 'love you all' pose.

Warmth and goodness

There is warmth and a languid ease, and we are not talking about the Archies cards that you gifted to your first love. This is Williamson, a man who once got stumped in a media interaction as a scribe asked him: "How can you be so good?" He looked perplexed, narrowed his eyes, and then the lips broke into a half-smile, and a few words emanated. Quickly he realised that he can't talk so much about himself and then shyly waved his hand.

Williamson, if you want to distil him into a Bollywood image, is akin to Shah Rukh Khan's famous outstretched arms in that 'love you all' pose

Years ago, V.V.S. Laxman, another batting artist praised for both his runs and impeccable behaviour, quizzically asked: "Is it so difficult being nice?"

The self-effacing trait is perhaps intrinsic to Williamson's country New Zealand, an island nation just below Australia, resigned to that old cliche about having more sheep than people. But there was no mistaking the inevitable limelight that was bound to follow Williamson. Since his under-19 days when he first ran into Kohli and forged a friendship beyond the ropes and a healthy competition on the field, Williamson was marked out as a special talent.

It was a judgement that he lived up to right from his Test debut hundred (131) against India at Ahmedabad in 2010. Cut to the present, he has played 98 Tests, amassed 8,666 runs studded with 32 tons. In terms of aggregate, he stays below his contemporaries Root (11,599), Smith (9,634) and Kohli (8,848). However, when it comes to hundreds, he is on par with Smith at 32 apiece and above Root (31) and Kohli (29). This statistic is specific to current players while in the overall list, Sachin Tendulkar remains numero uno at 15,921 runs and 51 centuries.

Mountain of runs

Remarkably, Williamson's yield gained a massive fillip in recent times as he went past the three-figure mark on seven occasions spread over seven Tests. He scored two tons in one game (against South Africa at Mount Maunganui) and in another he eked out a mere 13 and 11 (against Bangladesh at Mirpur). His scoring sequence over his last seven Tests are: 4, 132, 1, 121 n.o., 215, 104, 11, 13, 11, 118, 109, 43 and 133 n.o. The harried rivals were England, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and South Africa.

Having suffered a knee injury during last year's Indian Premier League, Williamson underwent surgery, did his rehabilitation and slowly found his way back. He may have lost a few months as a player but his innate assurance remained intact and soon the opposition paid a price. The finest batters nudge the scorecard without much ado, Williamson belongs to that creed.

He has enormous patience, can also get busy at the crease and just watches the ball closely before lining it up and then making that split-second decision about whether to defend, attack or just leave. Gifted willow-wielders can at times let their ego mess with their heads. Even Williamson's current rivals on the pedestal of batting greatness are not immune to it. Be it Root, Smith or Kohli, the odd rush to show the bowler his place has cost them their citadel.

Meanwhile, Williamson is the kind that stays flint-eyed on the delivery and then reacts. All batters know that eventually one ball will have their name inscribed on it and yet they soldier on in their varied ways. With Williamson, seeing him in the dressing room post a batting stint, you would never know if he suffered a blob or scored a hundred. This is a river that has very few ripples, and one that is always focused on the imminent estuary.

A prolific streak is something that acclaimed batters get to enjoy at various points in their career and then there would be a few slumps. The best know how to capitalise on these extended good shows with the bat.

A few decades ago at Bengaluru's leafy RSI Ground, Dilip Vengsarkar, Lord of Lord's and one who had his fair share of steady runs and the odd blip, said that he would be switched on while facing the likes of Imran Khan and Wasim Akram but lower his guard against a part-timer and lose his wicket. The 'Colonel' then stressed that irrespective of the quality of the attack, a 'batsman in form should always maximise his runs'.

New Zealand's pre-eminent bat

Williamson surely does that. That South Africa sent across a second-string team cannot be denied but the New Zealand legend can only play the bowlers he is offered to compete against and he made the most of it. He is New Zealand's pre-eminent batter, above his good mate Ross Taylor, the iconic late Martin Crowe, the maverick Brendon McCullum and the steady duo of John Wright and Stephen Fleming. All of them, with the exception of McCullum, were the types who pocketed runs efficiently, more accumulation than extravagance even if Taylor revealed an aggressive veneer in coloured attire.

Strong on either side of the wicket, Williamson is so good that he, to quote a recent headline, 'could be boring.' He is this fixed deposit that gives returns all the time and is immune to the flash and crash of the business indexes. He is pleasing to the eye and even if he isn't exactly a poem like Crowe was nor a splash of fiery red that Mark Greatbatch was, Williamson has found his niche. He can play pace and spin with felicity, has great hands, his footwork has a clockwork precision and then he will make us drool by posting videos of him slicing tennis-ball catches to his dog.

At 33, Williamson the batter is primed to scale the run-charts. Currently placed 25th in the list of highest run-scorers in Tests, he is bound to shoot ahead. Having relinquished captaincy in Tests while leading in the shorter formats, Williamson is a throwback to a genteel past. A knight astride a horse, doing his village rounds and stopping at the coffee shop for a light brew with a lot of 'good days' and 'thank yous' thrown in.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	36	9,855	19
2	Carlos Alcaraz	20	9,105	18
3	Jannik Sinner	22	8,270	21
4	Daniil Medvedev	28	8,265	20
5	Andrey Rublev	26	5,105	24
6	Alexander Zverev	26	5,030	26
7	Holger Rune	20	3,700	23
8	Hubert Hurkacz	27	3,600	25
9	Alex de Minaur	25	3,210	25
10	Taylor Fritz	26	3,150	25
11	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	2,990	23
12	Casper Ruud	25	2,965	23
13	Grigor Dimitrov	32	2,925	24
14	Tommy Paul	26	2,375	27
15	Frances Tiafoe	26	2,155	23

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 101 ▼ 3 spots

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 420 ▲ 42 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	10,300	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	8,905	17
3	Coco Gauff	19	7,110	19
4	Elena Rybakina	24	6,738	19
5	Jessica Pegula	29	5,400	21
6	Ons Jabeur	29	4,183	22
7	Qinwen Zheng	21	3,885	21
8	Marketa Vondrousova	24	3,856	16
9	Jelena Ostapenko	26	3,533	23
10	Karolina Muchova	27	3,465	13
11	Maria Sakkari	28	3,455	24
12	Barbora Krejcikova	28	3,134	20
13	Daria Kasatkina	26	3,063	25
14	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,870	23
15	Liudmila Samsonova	25	2,590	24

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 225 ▼ 1 spot

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 326 ▼ 2 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Liverpool	26	18	6	2	63	25	38	60
2	Man. City	25	17	5	3	58	26	32	56
3	Arsenal	25	17	4	4	58	22	36	55
4	Aston Villa	25	15	4	6	52	33	19	49
5	Tottenham	25	14	5	6	52	38	14	47
6	Man. United	25	14	2	9	35	34	1	44
7	Brighton	25	10	8	7	48	40	8	38
8	Newcastle	25	11	4	10	53	41	12	37
9	West Ham	25	10	6	9	36	44	-8	36
10	Chelsea	25	10	5	10	42	41	1	35
11	Wolves	25	10	5	10	39	40	-1	35
12	Fulham	25	8	5	12	34	41	-7	29
13	Bournemouth	24	7	7	10	33	46	-13	28
14	Brentford	25	7	4	14	35	44	-9	25
15	Crystal Palace	25	6	7	12	28	44	-16	25
16	N. Forest	25	6	6	13	32	44	-12	24
17	Everton *	25	8	6	11	27	33	-6	20
18	Luton Town	25	5	5	15	35	51	-16	20
19	Burnley	25	3	4	18	25	55	-30	13
20	Sheffield	25	3	4	18	22	65	-43	13

Everton deducted 10 points following a breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules. The decision is currently under appeal

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	24	20	3	1	59	12	47	63
2	Juventus	25	16	6	3	38	17	21	54
3	AC Milan	25	16	4	5	49	31	18	52
4	Atalanta	24	14	3	7	47	23	24	45
5	Bologna	25	12	9	4	37	23	14	45
6	Roma	25	12	5	8	45	30	15	41
7	Lazio	25	12	4	9	31	26	5	40
8	Fiorentina	25	11	5	9	37	29	8	38
9	Napoli	24	10	6	8	33	28	5	36
10	Torino	25	9	9	7	23	22	1	36
11	Monza	25	8	9	8	25	30	-5	33
12	Genoa	25	7	9	9	26	31	-5	30
13	Lecce	25	5	9	11	24	39	-15	24
14	Udinese	25	3	14	8	25	38	-13	23
15	Frosinone	25	6	5	14	32	52	-20	23
16	Empoli	25	5	7	13	19	38	-19	22
17	Sassuolo	24	5	5	14	29	45	-16	20
18	Verona	25	4	8	13	23	34	-11	20
19	Cagliari	25	4	7	14	23	46	-23	19
20	Salernitana	25	2	7	16	20	51	-31	13

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	25	19	5	1	53	16	37	62
2	Girona	25	17	5	3	54	32	22	56
3	Barcelona	25	16	6	3	52	34	18	54
4	Atletico Madrid	25	16	3	6	50	26	24	51
5	Athletic Bilbao	25	14	7	4	45	23	22	49
6	Real Sociedad	25	10	10	5	34	23	11	40
7	Real Betis	25	9	12	4	28	25	3	39
8	Valencia	25	10	6	9	29	29	0	36
9	Las Palmas	25	10	5	10	25	25	0	35
10	Getafe	25	8	10	7	33	34	-1	34
11	Osasuna	25	9	5	11	29	36	-7	32
12	Alaves	25	7	7	11	24	31	-7	28
13	Villarreal	25	6	8	11	35	47	-12	26
14	Rayo Vallecano	25	5	10	10	22	33	-11	25
15	Sevilla	25	5	9	11	30	37	-7	24
16	Real Mallorca	25	4	11	10	22	33	-11	23
17	Celta Vigo	25	4	8	13	27	37	-10	20
18	Cadiz	25	2	11	12	15	35	-20	17
19	Granada	25	2	8	15	27	49	-22	14
20	Almeria	25	0	8	17	23	52	-29	8

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Leverkusen	22	18	4	0	57	15	42	58
2	Bayern	22	16	2	4	61	25	36	50
3	Stuttgart	22	15	1	6	51	28	23	46
4	Dortmund	22	11	8	3	44	27	17	41
5	RB Leipzig	22	12	4	6	48	28	20	40
6	Eint. Frankfurt	22	8	9	5	34	28	6	33
7	Werder Bremen	22	8	5	9	31	34	-3	29
8	SC Freiburg	22	8	5	9	29	40	-11	29
9	Hoffenheim	22	7	6	9	38	41	-3	27
10	Heidenheim	22	7	6	9	31	38	-7	27
11	Bochum	22	5	10	7	26	41	-15	25
12	Wolfsburg	22	6	6	10	26	34	-8	24
13	Union Berlin	22	7	3	12	21	35	-14	24
14	FC Augsburg	22	5	8	9	31	40	-9	23
15	M'gladbach	22	5	7	10	36	43	-7	22
16	Cologne	22	3	7	12	15	36	-21	16
17	Mainz	22	2	9	11	17	35	-18	15
18	Darmstadt 98	22	2	6	14	23	51	-28	12

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	893	919
2	Steve Smith	818	947
3	Daryl Mitchell	780	804
4	Babar Azam	768	882
5	Joe Root	766	923
6	Usman Khawaja	765	847
7	Virat Kohli	752	937
8	Dimuth Karunaratne	750	783
8	Harry Brook	750	773
10	Marnus Labuschagne	746	937

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	876	881
2	R. Ashwin	839	904
3	Kagiso Rabada	834	902
4	Pat Cummins	828	914
5	Josh Hazlewood	818	864
6	Ravindra Jadeja	789	899
7	Prabath Jayasuriya	783	783
8	James Anderson	746	903
8	Nathan Lyon	746	799
10	Kyle Jamieson	743	836

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	824	898
2	Shubman Gill	801	847
3	Virat Kohli	768	909
4	Rohit Sharma	746	882
5	Daryl Mitchell	728	750
6	Harry Tector	723	729
6	David Warner	723	869
8	Dawid Malan	707	730
9	Rassie van der Dussen	701	796
10	Heinrich Klaasen	697	757

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	716	741
2	Josh Hazlewood	688	727
3	Adam Zampa	686	695
4	Mohammed Siraj	678	736
5	Jasprit Bumrah	665	838
6	Mohammad Nabi	653	657
7	Shaheen Afridi	650	688
8	Rashid Khan	647	647
9	Kuldeep Yadav	645	760
10	Trent Boult	643	775

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	861	910
2	Philip Salt	802	802
3	Mohammad Rizwan	800	875
4	Babar Azam	764	896
5	Aiden Markram	755	796
6	Yashasvi Jaiswal	714	739
7	Finn Allen	706	723
8	Rilee Rossouw	689	724
9	Jos Buttler	680	687
10	Reeza Hendricks	660	674

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Adil Rashid	726	746
2	Wanindu Hasaranga	705	797
3	Maheesh Theekshana	676	684
4	Akeal Hosein	664	683
5	Axar Patel	660	667
6	Ravi Bishnoi	659	699
7	Tabraiz Shamsi	654	821
8	Fazalhaq Farooqi	653	692
9	Mitchell Santner	650	724
10	Reece Topley	643	662

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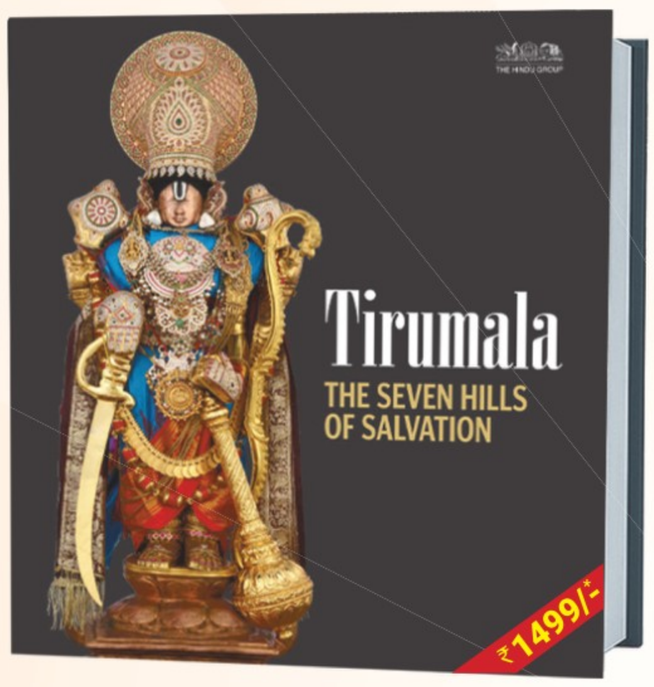

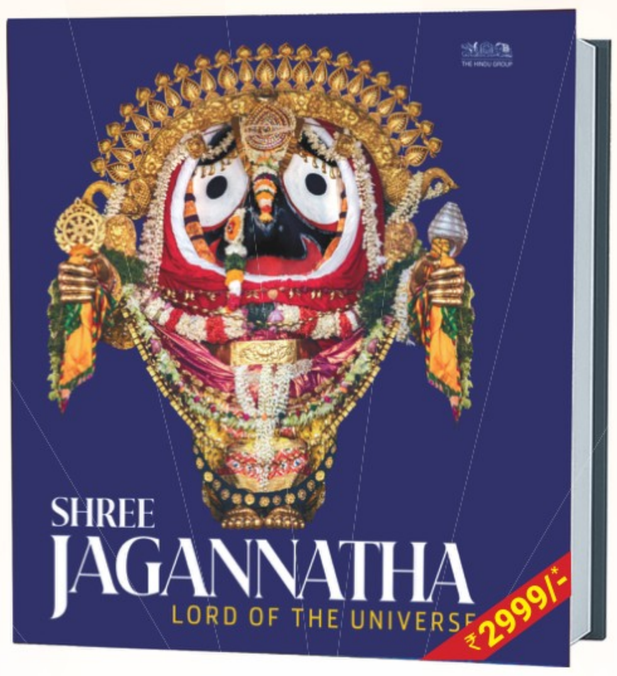

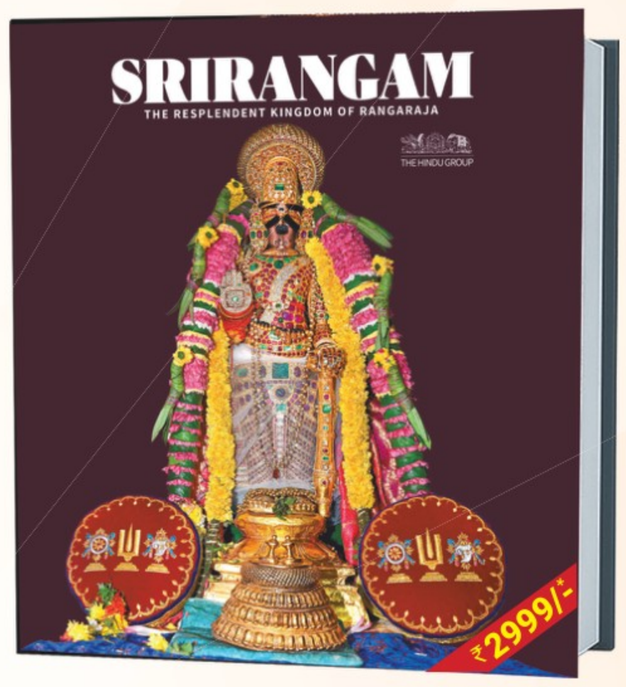

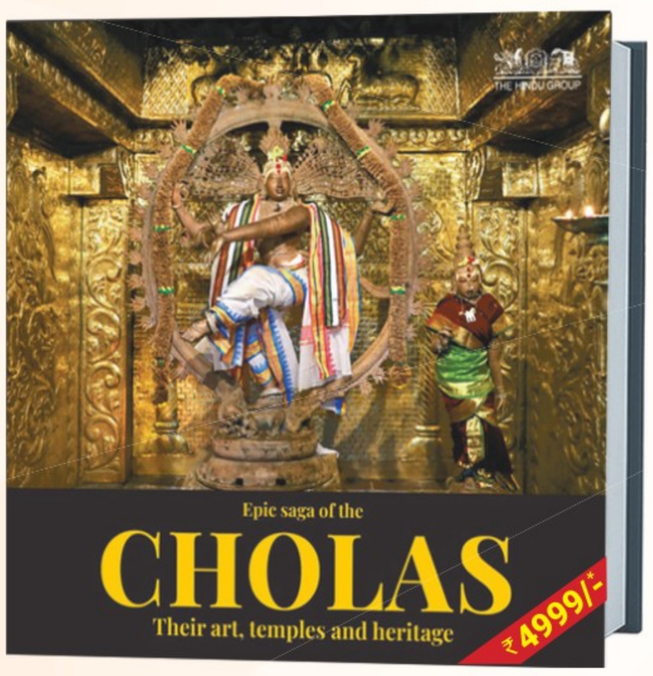

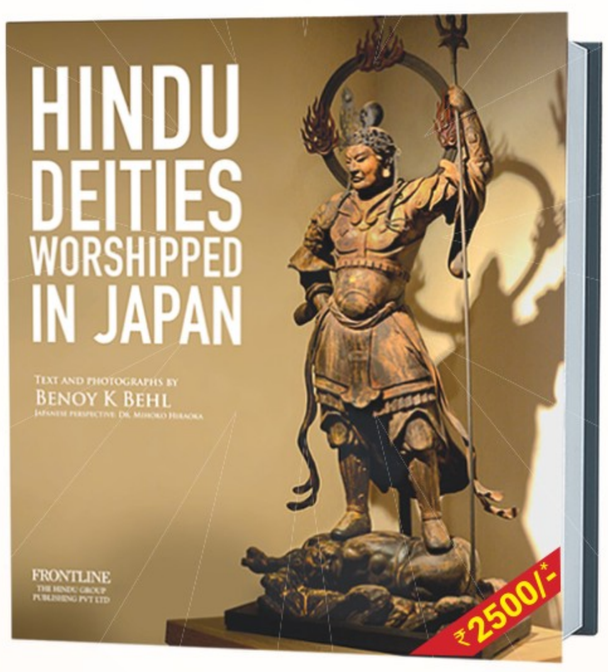

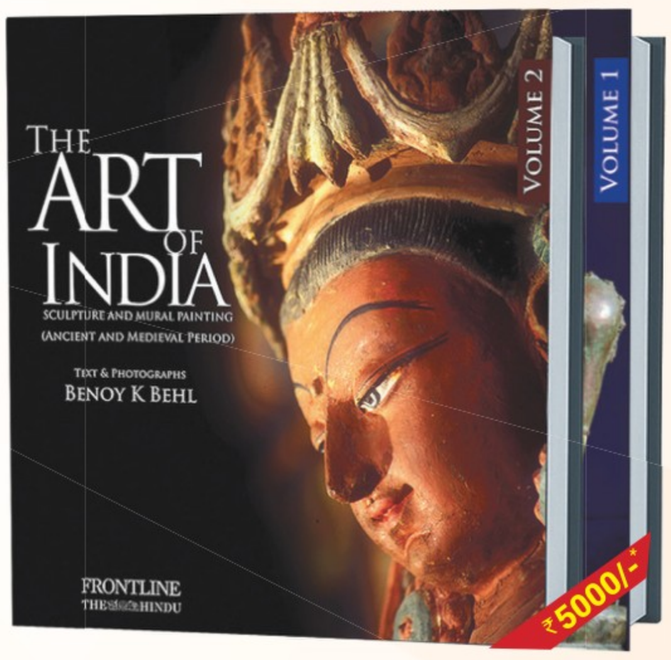

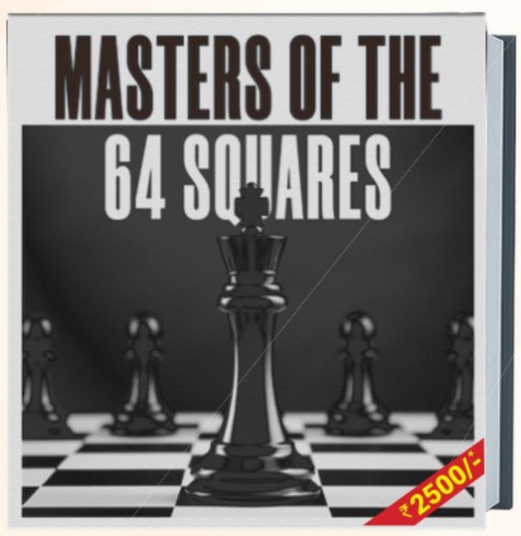

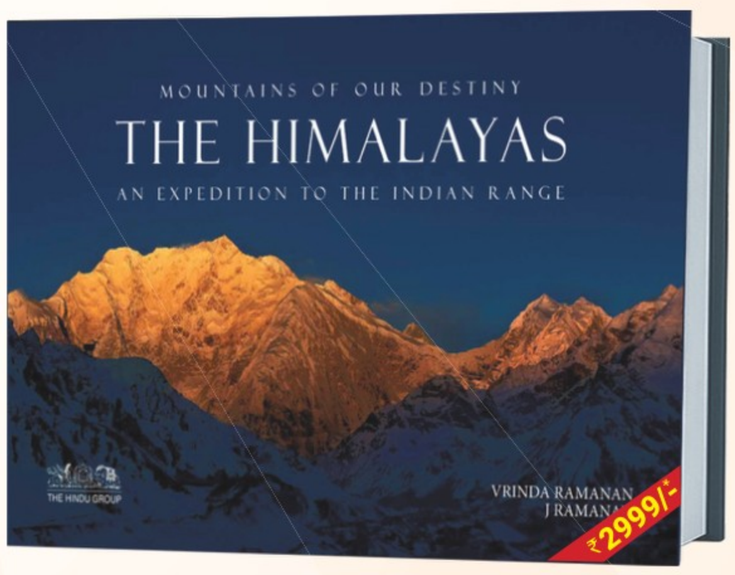

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BMRCL initiates feasibility study for Namma Metro expansion to city outskirts

In the 2024-25 Budget, CM had outlined plans to expand metro to Tumakuru and Devanahalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) on February 23 issued bids for consultancy services to prepare a feasibility study report for the expansion of Metro rail corridors to the outskirts of the city.

The expansion is divided into two packages. The first package, spanning 50 km, will include three corridors: Challaghatta - Bidadi, Silk Institute - Harohalli, and Bommasandra - Attibele.

The second package will cover a 60 km corridor, encompassing Kalene Agrahara (Gottigere), Jigani, Anekal, Attibele, Sarjapur, Varthur, and Kadugodi Tree Park.

According to BMRCL officials, the feasibility study will evaluate crucial elements such as the choice of trains like Normal Metro, Metrolite or Metro Neo projected ridership, alignment, station placements, and construction expenses. In the recent 2024-25 Karnataka Budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had outlined plans to expand the Namma Metro to Tumakuru and Devanahalli. "The feasibility report for extending the metro rail from Bangalore International Exhibition Centre to Tumakuru and from Kempegowda International Airport to Devanahalli on a Public-Private Partnership basis will be prepared," Mr Siddaramaiah had said.

In November last year, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar instructed the BMRCL to formulate a Detailed Project Report for the extension of the metro network up to Bidadi. FILE PHOTO

New metro lines

- The first package, spanning 50 km, will include three corridors: Challaghatta - Bidadi, Silk Institute - Harohalli, and Bommasandra - Attibele.
- The second package will cover a 60 km corridor, encompassing Kalene Agrahara (Gottigere), Jigani, Anekal, Attibele, Sarjapur, Varthur, and Kadugodi Tree Park.

DPR Reoprt

In November last year, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar instructed the BMRCL to formulate a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the extension of the metro network up to Bidadi.

Meanwhile, the corridors for which BMRCL sought a feasibility study on Friday are not included in the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) of 2020. The CMP proposed an expansion of the Metro network in Bengaluru to 317 km, outlining corridors such as J.P. Nagar 4th Phase-Kempapura along ORR West, Hosahalli-Kadabagere along Magadi Road, Whitefield - Domlur Line, Katamnallur Gate - Sarjapur Road - Hebbal, and Inner Ring Metro.

Majestic-Garudacharpalya metro route to get train every 3 minutes during peak hours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bringing relief to lakhs of commuters, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) will commence short-loop train services on the Purple Line from February 26 during morning peak hours connecting Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station (Majestic) and Garudacharpalya Metro Station.

In a release BMRCL on Friday stated, "This will help a large number of commuters bound towards Trinity, Indiranagar, Beniganahalli and K.R. Puram Metro stations as metro trains will be available every three minutes in this section between 8.45 a.m. and 10.20 a.m. These services will be available on all working days except Saturday, Sunday, and general holidays."

Further, for the convenience of passengers arriving in early morning hours to Bengaluru city through Indian Railways / Intercity buses, Namma Metro is also introducing the first train service from Nadaprabhu Kempegowda station (Majestic) towards all directions at 5 a.m. on all days of the week, except Sundays.

In October last year, the Bengaluru Metro Purple Line, connecting the eastern and western parts of the city, officially launched its operations.

This milestone greatly contributed to the increase in the Bengaluru metro's ridership, surpassing an average of seven lakh daily riders. The highest number of passengers recorded in a single day was on January 25, 2024, reaching 7,82,435.

Commuters who have been complaining about the metro getting too crowded for comfort ever since the extension became operational welcomed the move. Chiragh Rao, a regular commuter said, "This brings a sigh of relief to lakhs of commuters. . Over the past few months, the metro has been extremely crowded, to the extent that I couldn't even stand at the Majestic station. We've experienced the struggles of crowded platforms and the general stress that comes with daily commuting."

Gayathri, a regular commuter, added, "I hope the BMRCL starts these short-loop trains through the day as the metro is crowded now pretty much any time of the day, except maybe the early morning and late evening hours."

BMTC starts QR code services at 40 metro stations for updates on feeder buses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has introduced QR code services in metro stations starting on February 19 in 40 metro stations.

With the use of these QR codes, commuters can easily access information about live tracking of buses, metro feeder services, and the timings of these feeder services, according to a release by BMTC.

"By simply scanning the QR codes at the metro stations, users gain access to updates on the location and availability of buses. Within two to three days of its launch, the QR code based metro journey planner and live bus tracking are being used by close to 3,000 passengers," BMTC stated in the release.

Every day, around one lakh commuters are benefited through metro feeder services, the release said. BMTC is now running 151 metro feeder services in the city and there are a total of 66 metro stations in the city and metro feeder services are provided by the BMTC from/via a total of 43 metro stations.

"BMTC intends to increase the scope of its operations on metro feeder routes to efficiently offer last-mile connectivity to Metro rail passengers. The nine-metre-long buses will be branded in a special manner.

Under the N-CAP scheme, 120, nine-metre-long air-conditioned electric buses will be operated on metro feeder routes," the release added.

Over 25 vehicles destroyed in massive fire at a private parking lot at Gangondanahalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A fire broke out on the premises of a plastic waste shredder unit at Gangondanahalli, near Nayandahalli in Bengaluru early morning on Friday.

At least 26 autorickshaws and one car were destroyed. Fortunately, no one was injured in the fire.

The Fire Department was alerted by a call at 1.57 a.m. Five fire tenders rushed to the spot and the fire was brought under control by 8 a.m, sources in the Fire and Emergency Services said.

The plastic waste shredder unit is owned by Rizwan. The premises were also let out for parking of autorickshaws, goods vehicles and pushcarts at the rate of ₹30 per vehicle per night, sources said.

Many autorickshaws were destroyed after the fire accident at Gangondanahalli. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Similar incident

It can be recalled that at least 18 buses were gutted in an accidental fire that broke out at a similar parking lot for buses on October 30, 2023 at Veerabhadranagar, not far from Gangondanahalli.

Short circuit suspected

There was a shed that was being used to store plastic waste and shred it and auto rickshaws were parked in the compound during night time in Gangondanahalli where fire broke out in the wee hours of Friday. Plastic waste was also strewn on the premises. The fire is suspected to have started due to an electric short circuit in the shed and spread to the plastic waste in the compound and the vehicles parked nearby.

"Many goods auto rickshaws and push carts were also filled with vessels, plastic items and even plastic waste. This added fuel to the fire and made fire fighting a challenge," a firefighter said.

Mahesh, a local resident, told media persons that the fire started around 1.45 a.m. and spread to the entire compound.

"Some of us rushed inside and brought out some auto rickshaws and parked them some distance away. But we could not save many," he said.

Another auto driver Mohammed Aslam, a resident, said that they pulled out at least 35 to 40 auto rickshaws, or else the damage could have been much higher.

Auto drivers who lost their vehicles in the fire, have lost their lifeline and are anxious about their future.

Auto drivers

Many of these rickshaws were also taken on rent at ₹200 per day and the owners are now asking drivers to pay up.

Wasim Pasha, 38, has been riding an auto rickshaw for the past eight years at a rent of ₹200 per day. "I have been parking it here for the past year and a half and there has been no problem. But now it is charred beyond recognition. The vehicle owner is holding me accountable. I have all the documents and insurance. I hope I will get the insurance money, otherwise I will not only lose my lifeline to earn my bread and butter, but also be caught in debt," he said.

Another auto driver Mohammed Hidayat Asif, 34, who also lost his auto rickshaw in the fire on Friday, said he had recently bought the rickshaw taking a loan and now it was gutted in the fire.

"I hope the government helps us by paying some compensation or help us get our insurance money. Now I have a loan on the vehicle, but have lost the vehicle," he said.

No compenstation yet

Srinivas, general secretary, Autorickshaw Drivers' Union, affiliated with Centre for Indian Trade Unions' (CITU), demanded that the state government compensate auto drivers and other push cart owners who have lost their vehicles and their source of livelihoods.

Vijayanagar MLA M. Krishnappa visited the spot and assured the victims of assistance, but did not announce any compensation.

Blind couple killed after being hit by a bike in Nelamangala; rider critical

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A blind couple, who were trying to cross the busy National Highway 75 at Yentaganahalli in Nelamangala taluk on the outskirts of the city, were killed after they were hit by a speeding bike on Friday around 6.45 a.m. The deceased have been identified as Sridhar, 52, and Archana, 35, both residents of Yentaganahalli.

The biker, Ajith, a resident of Bannerghatta, was also severely injured in the accident. He was allegedly overspeeding and as he tried to avoid hitting the blind couple and applied sudden brakes, he lost control of the bike.

He hit the couple and the bike was thrown up in the air and came crashing into a gutter several metres away. Ajith sustained severe injuries and is being treated at an Intensive Care Unit at a private hospital nearby. His condition is also said to be critical.

Nelamangala Traffic Police have registered a case and are analysing footage from nearby CCTV cameras to see what led to the accident.

In another incident, an allegedly overspeeding delivery boy was killed in an accident on Thursday night near Electronics City. The deceased has been identified as Abhishek, 26, a resident of Bommasandra. Abhishek was working with a leading e-commerce company as a delivery boy.

On Thursday around 10.40 p.m., he was going towards Hosur Road junction and applied sudden brakes to navigate a speed breaker, and lost control of the scooter He sustained severe head injuries and died on the way to the hospital.

Police take action against tanker drivers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The traffic police booked 506 cases against water tanker drivers and collected a penalty of ₹2.64 lakh from them during a special drive conducted between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Friday across the city against water tanker drivers. While one of them was found to be drunk, the highest number of cases - 162 - were booked for not wearing uniform, 120 cases for driving in no entry road, and 57 for no parking among other violations.

NIA arrests two absconding accused in Bangladeshi human trafficking case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which busted a multi-State human trafficking case from Bangladesh with links to Bengaluru in November 2023, has arrested two absconding accused from the state.

With this, the total arrests in the case have risen to 14. Twelve others arrested earlier have already been chargesheeted.

"NIA had registered the case on November 7, 2023, after receiving credible inputs about certain Karnataka-based persons having linkages with facilitators and traffickers in Assam, Tripura, and countries across the border. The linkages had exposed a large network of traffickers engaged in smuggling individuals into India through the Indo-Bangladesh border. The accused were also found involved in fabricating and providing fake Aadhar cards to the victims," NIA said in a statement.

The two now arrested have been identified as Mohammed Sajjid Haldar and Idris. They were arrested from Karnataka on Thursday night with the assistance of the Internal Security Division of Karnataka, NIA said.

NIA claimed that, they found that Haldar and Idris had illegally crossed into India via Benapole at the Indo-Bangladesh border. "Haldar had set up a waste collection and segregation unit at K. Channasandra in Ramamurthy Nagar, and had employed other Bangladeshi nationals into his operations," NIA said.

69 vehicles with 8,875 cases against them tracked down

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of a special drive to track down vehicles with over ₹50,000 traffic fines pending against them in the east division, the traffic police have tracked down 69 such vehicles in the last 15 days.

These vehicles had 8,875 cases of traffic violations against them pending over several years now and have an outstanding of ₹47.15 Lakh.

The traffic police have now settled 1,048 cases and collected a penalty of ₹5.27 lakh from them and the violators have asked for more time to settle the remaining dues. "All these vehicles have at least 100 cases pending against them. We have identified over 900 vehicles, most of them two-wheelers, with over ₹50,000 penalties pending against them, and have launched a special drive to track them down and ensure they pay up the penalties.

"In the last two years, we have been focusing on traffic management more than enforcement and many seem to have taken advantage of that. But law will catch up with them," said Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic - East).

GETTY IMAGES

Ivan Toney puts himself in the shop window — front and centre

The Brentford striker, coveted by some of England and Europe's biggest clubs, has not been shy about his desire for a move. His goal-scoring return to action, after serving an eight-month ban for breaching FA gambling rules, has only heightened the speculation over his future

Reuters
Associated Press

Last week, Brentford announced the signing of Brazilian striker Igor Thiago from Club Brugge, with the 22-year-old set to join the Bees in July. Almost immediately, the rumour mill, which churns constantly, went into overdrive. The speculation over the future of Ivan Toney, in the news for the best part of a year, grew even more frenzied.

Brentford manager Thomas Frank's words describing his new signing were most instructive: "I'm very pleased that we have been proactive," he said. "Thiago is a very exciting striker who fits the role in our team. He is hard-working and a very good pressing player. He is also a physical presence, very good in the box and can link the play."

The position of affairs

The listing of Thiago's qualities described Toney's profile – further evidence, for those who sought it, that Brentford was preparing for life without its talisman next season. With Toney being the subject of interest from the likes of Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester United, Newcastle and Tottenham Hotspur, the likelihood of a transfer this summer is particularly strong.

> Everybody wants to play for a top club that is fighting for titles. To be the best, you have to play with the best and compete against the best
>
> **IVAN TONEY**

Toney, who returned in January from an eight-month ban for breaching FA gambling rules, is out of contract at the end of next term – so it's hardly surprising that Brentford will be keen to cash in on its highest-value asset if it can't convince the frontman to sign a new contract. The cost of losing a player of such calibre on a free transfer is crushingly high.

Moreover, Frank was quoted by a magazine in his native Denmark saying Toney is likely to be sold in the close season – but the Brentford manager has since clarified that the translation of his comments may not have been entirely accurate. Saying he would "love Toney to stay forever", Frank did, however, admit that "the reality is he's got one more year left on his contract in the summer. I think he's been pretty open about playing for a top club in the future."

When asked about his manager's comments, Toney joked: "I see that as he doesn't want me! The manager has said what he's said but I can't make clubs come and get me. I've just got to keep doing what I do and that's score goals. What will be will be."

Toney has certainly been bagging goals, showing little sign of rustiness on his return. When he scored in the 4-1 defeat to Liverpool, it was his fourth goal in five games.

This includes a goal 19 minutes into his comeback on January 20 against Nottingham Forest – a freekick in which he moved the ball and the referee's foam after the wall had been formed, without the referee noticing, and curled it into the net.

Made for prime time

The response to the goal was divided – some felt it was sharp practice, others asserted it was what winners do – but there was no dispute over the sense that this was prime-time Toney. The 27-year-old relishes the big stage and the bright lights. "I manifest things like this," Toney said on *NBC*. "Most of them go in the stands and the car park, but this one went in."

It's not difficult to see why Toney is in such high demand. He was the third-highest scorer in the Premier League last season – his second full season in the top-flight – with his 20 goals from 33 appearances bettered only by Erling Haaland and Harry Kane.

What's more, he often finds a way of influencing games even when he doesn't score. In the 3-1 defeat against Manchester City earlier this month, Toney played a vital part in Neal Maupay's goal. His physical presence and threat occupied and disturbed two defenders, allowing 'keeper Mark Flekken's goal-kick right through and into the path of Maupay.

> We know what he's worth. I don't think there are many strikers in the world who are better than him right now. It would surprise me if there aren't a lot of clubs interested in him
>
> **THOMAS FRANK**
> Brentford manager

Danger man

"He is an exceptional player, he is an extraordinary player," said City manager Pep Guardiola, who suffered at Toney's hands last season when Brentford completed an extraordinary double over the Sky Blues. "He is so dangerous. He's a master [at] us[ing] his body for the second ball, good finishing, you can link with him – he's one of the best I've ever seen [at that]."

Toney's mentality makes him an especially attractive proposition for the top clubs. A big personality, he seems to thrive when the stakes are high.

Talking about his comeback in January with Brentford's official website, Toney said he felt no nerves. "Nope, it was just excitement. I just wanted the whistle to go and to be involved. That was my time to shine. I was always going to come back stronger – that's just the mentality I have. I want[ed] to be a different animal when I came back. It's going to be frightening."

This strength of mind was evident in how he dealt with his ban for breaching the FA's betting rules after he was diagnosed with a gambling addiction. "The biggest punishment [is] to miss out on a World Cup – everyone's dream – it is bigger than missing eight months of football," Toney told *Kick Game* YouTube channel. "I don't want anyone to feel sorry for me. I done what I done before, the punishment is the punishment."

Toney is determined to find a place in the England side for the Euros this summer – Frank has advocated Toney's case, saying "I know what Ivan can bring, and I think it's something different England don't have".

How the dominoes fall

But irrespective of whom Gareth Southgate picks as Kane's understudy – the England manager is keeping an eye on the likes of Ollie Watkins, Callum Wilson and Eddie Nketiah – there is greater interest about where Toney will find himself following the Euros. With several top strikers expected to be on the market this summer, Victor Osimhen the other big name Premier League clubs are chasing, it could be a case of how the dominoes fall.

"You can never predict when is the right time to move elsewhere, but I think it's obvious I want to play for a top club," Toney told *Sky Sports*. "Everybody wants to play for a top club that is fighting for titles. To be the best, you have to play with the best and compete against the best."

Frank, too, doesn't know where Toney will end up – and, perhaps more pertinently for the Bees boss, for how much. But he is certain of one thing. "We know what he's worth. I don't think there are many strikers in the world who are better than him right now," said Frank. "Who knows what is going to happen in the summer? What Ivan is very good at is being in the moment – right now, here, ready. That's what he is focusing on."

GAME THEORY

Sutherland goes big like only a few have

Annabel Sutherland put her name alongside some of the greats of the women's game with her recent 210 against South Africa at the WACA. It's the fourth-highest score in all women's Tests, the highest for someone batting at No. 5 or lower, and the fastest double century ever (248 balls).
The 22-year-old is also the second-youngest to make a double, behind Mithali Raj (19 years)

Annabel Sutherland

HIGHEST TEST SCORE (TOP 15)

Rank	Player	Score	Team	Opponent	Venue	Match Start Date
1	Kiran Baluch	242	Pakistan	West Indies	Karachi	15 Mar 2004
2	Mithali Raj	214	India	England	Taunton	14 Aug 2002
3	Ellyse Perry	213*	Australia	England	North Sydney	09 Nov 2017
4	Annabel Sutherland	210	Australia	SA	Perth	15 Feb 2024
5	Karen Rolton	209*	Australia	England	Leeds	06 Jul 2001
6	Tammy Beaumont	208	England	Australia	Nottingham	22 Jun 2023
7	Kirsty Flavell	204	NZ	England	Scarborough	24 Jun 1996
8	Michelle Goszko	204	Australia	England	Shenley	24 Jun 2001
9	Joanne Broadbent	200	Australia	England	Guildford	06 Aug 1998
10	Denise Annetts	193	Australia	England	Wetherby	21 Aug 1987
11	M.D. Thirush Kamini	192	India	SA	Mysore	16 Nov 2014
12	Sandhya Agarwal	190	India	England	Worcester	12 Jul 1986
13	Betty Snowball	189	England	NZ	Christchurch	16 Feb 1935
14	Rachael Heyhoe-Flint	179	England	Australia	The Oval	24 Jul 1976
15	Claire Taylor	177	England	SA	Shenley	07 Aug 2003

PROGRESSIVE RECORD HOLDER FOR HIGHEST TEST SCORE

Player	Score	Team	Opposition	Venue	Match Start Date
Myrtle Ethel Maclagan	72	England	Australia	Brisbane	28 Dec 1934
Myrtle Ethel Maclagan	119	England	Australia	Sydney	4 Jan 1935
Betty Snowball	189	England	NZ	Christchurch	16 Feb 1935
Sandhya Agarwal	190	India	England	Worcester	12 Jul 1986
Denise Annetts	193	Australia	England	Wetherby	21 Aug 1987
Kirsty Flavell	204	New Zealand	England	Scarborough	24 Jun 1996
Michelle Goszko	204	Australia	England	Shenley	24 Jun 2001
Karen Rolton	209*	Australia	England	Leeds	6 Jul 2001
Mithali Raj	214	India	England	Taunton	14 Aug 2002
Kiran Baluch	242	Pakistan	West Indies	Karachi	15 Mar 2004

SOURCE: ESPNcricinfo

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Riding through

The peloton finds its way through a picturesque tree-lined road during the recent Clasica de Almeria in Roquetas de Mar, Spain.

The Clasica de Almeria is a single-day bicycle race held every year, typically in February or March. The race, which spans 192.3km, starts and ends in Almeria.

The first edition, staged in 1986, was an amateur event. In 1992, the race turned professional.

The Netherlands' Olav Kooij won the 39th edition in a thrilling photo finish, pipping defending champion Matteo Moschetti of Italy, for his first title of the year. Moschetti, a renowned sprinter, launched his final kick with 150 metres to the finish line and nearly caught out the 22-year-old Kooij, who might have celebrated a tad too soon.

"On the line I looked to my left and maybe I should've looked a bit earlier," Kooij said. "You know for the next races that you need to go all-out for the line."

Moschetti was disappointed at coming within a whisker of defending his title. "Maybe I should have launched a bit earlier but I gave my all until the last centimetre," he said.

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STANLEY LIFESTYLES LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the DRHP with SEBI. The DRHP is available on the websites of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, stock exchanges i.e., BSE at www.bseindia.com and NSE at www.nseindia.com, respectively and is available on the website of the Company at www.stanleylifestyles.com and websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfl.com and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com, respectively. Bidders should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, see the section titled "Risk Factors" that will be included in the RHP. Potential Bidders should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933 (the "U.S. Securities Act") or any state securities laws in the United States, and unless so registered, and may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold outside the United States in 'offshore transactions' in reliance on Regulations and the applicable laws of each jurisdictions where such offers and sales are made. There will be no public offering of the Equity Shares in the United States.

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THE HINDU

TRENDS

Sanjeev Kumar Jain

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Innovative housing solutions for seniors

Here's how senior housing can evolve from transitional retirement homes to vibrant communities that celebrate their golden years

The demand for senior housing solutions is rising with the global ageing population, particularly in India. An increasing number of elderly individuals, having lived in regular housing, are now choosing to relocate to senior living facilities for enhanced care and social support.

A recent survey highlighted the importance of senior housing, with 78% of participants expressing a desire for such accommodations.

Transitional living

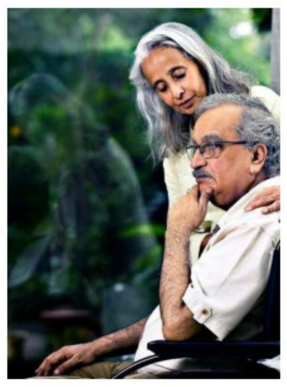
In India, 85% of units are for outright sale, while only 15% are offered on a lease or rental basis. Seniors aged 60 to 75, in good health, seek independent living where amenities such as outdoor green spaces, club facilities, indoor games rooms, card rooms, cafeterias, community halls, temples, etc., are available.

On the other hand, assisted living care-homes, usually in a single-building format on a room lease model, prioritise healthcare. They offer services such as dementia care, palliative care, geriatric care, chronic illness care, and post-operative care.

Common challenges

Seniors often find it challenging to uproot themselves from their homes and move to retirement communities. Most of them look for affordable independent-living units with health and hospitality infrastructure on a lease basis. They prefer to live in the vicinity of hospitals, temples, and shopping areas. They are also willing to pay a reasonable service charge to an operator who addresses all their concerns.

The solution lies in developing large Continued Care Retirement Communities (CCRC). However, developers prefer selling these units at 10-15% premium over regular residential units to recover their investment with profit. Rental yields on residential units are low in the range of 2-3% of capital value and not expected to increase soon.



Market forces or changes in government policies can also address the situation in the following ways:

- Government taxes and duties are most significant in the cost of residential units. These could be slashed to reduce unit capital value, thereby increasing rental yield for developers.
- Capital for such development could be provided at concessional rates.
- Encourage senior living developments by providing land at concessional rates.
- Modifying town planning norms to allow these developments on cheaper institutional land will reduce costs.
- The market cannot rely on the government for every problem it faces, and solutions should be found within existing market dynamics. These units need to be made more attractive to encourage seniors to purchase or pay high lease rates. Projects should appeal to Private Equity (PE) investors to fund them, which can only happen if rental yields become comparable to commercial properties. Senior living projects require innovation in several aspects.

Healthcare: Ideally located close to multi-specialty hospitals, they need to have basic infrastructure providing nursing care, physiotherapists, massage rooms, doctors on call, and lab and medicine delivery services. The ability to respond to health emergencies and support in activities of daily living is essential.

Technology: Technology integration is crucial to ease living and respond to emergencies. Smart home solutions and wearable devices, such as smartwatches, can monitor health and location without intruding on personal space.

Designs: Facilities need to be designed by architects with international experience. Designs must consider Indian ethos.

Activities: Seniors need to be engaged in a variety of activities to enjoy the fruits of their successful years of working.

Concierge services: Premium services, once available only to large corporate clients, can be easily provided for senior citizens who find it challenging to manage evolving technology, multiple external service providers, and ever-changing norms of banking and government bodies.

The writer is CEO and Founder, Nema Eldercare.

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'Bribery' case: Special Court orders Lokayukta to conduct further probe against CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Special Court of Sessions set up exclusively to deal with criminal cases related MPs/ MLAs in Karnataka has directed the Lokayukta police to conduct further investigation against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in an alleged corruption case related to his tenure as Chief Minister during 2013-18.

Siddaramaiah.

The court has given six months to complete the probe and submit the final report.

The court passed the order by rejecting the closure report filed by the Lokayukta police on June 6, 2023 after conducting only a preliminary inquiry into the complaint of bribery lodged in 2022 by BJP's N.R. Ramesh, who is a former city councillor.

Closure report

"The investigating agency without looking into any other manner about the question whether any corrupt practices were indulged in or not, had furnished the closure report/final report, on the basis of the self-serving statement of accused number-1 [Mr. Siddaramaiah], which is not proper in the eyes of law," observed Santosh Gajanan Bhat, judge of the Special Court, in his February 21 order.

It was alleged in the complaint that Mr. Siddaramaiah had taken ₹1.3 crore from one L. Vivekananda alias Kings Court Vivek (accused number-2), Managing Director of M/s Vivek Hotels, Mysuru in 2014 to show him the favour of appointing him as a Steward and member of the Managing Committee of the Bangalore Turf Club Ltd. using the power of the State government to nominate members to BTCL's managing committee.

The complainant had said that though Mr. Siddaramaiah had declared ₹1.3 crore as "loan" taken from Mr. Vivekananda, it was in reality an illegal gratification in the form of *quid pro quo* to nominate him to the BTCL.

The court noted that the investigation officer, instead of probing the case from different angles, had merely accepted the statement of Mr. Vivekananda that the post of Steward is a mere honorary post, and the written statement sent through the post by Mr. Siddaramaiah claiming that it was a "loan" and not any favour, had filed the closure report by conducting only a preliminary inquiry.

'Without any probe'

Also, the court noted that the Lokayukta police had given merely a couple of days to the complainant to furnish details and had hastily submitted the closure report without conducting any probe to ascertain the correctness of the claims made by the accused persons.

INBRIEF

Music concerts in city today

Saptak and Art Mantram are jointly hosting Kalotsava on Saturday. There will be a vocal concert by Dhananjay Hegde. It will be followed by another concert by dhrupad singers Umakanta Gudecha and Ramakant Gudecha. The programme will be held at Havyaka Sabha Bhavana, Malleswaram, from 5.30 p.m.

Free travel for II PU students in buses during examination

To facilitate students who are appearing for II PU annual examinations, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has decided to allow them to travel free in its buses (city, suburban, ordinary, and express buses) from their residence to the allotted examination centres on producing examination admission ticket during the examination period between March 1 to 22, 2024.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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TAMILNADU HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Short e- Tender Notice No. FPM2/ 8098 /2023 Dt: 23.02.2024

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil nadu, Short e-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors by the Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Horticulture Development Agency, 3rd floor, Agriculture Building Complex, Chepauk, Chennai-5, for the following work.

Sl. No	Description of work	Approximate Tender Value including 18% GST (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Construction of Super Tree Tower with viewing deck for Establishment of Kalaignar Centenary Park, Dr. Radhakrishnan Road, Chennai	728.060

Short e-Tender bid submission closing date:01.03.2024. The e-tender documents, EMD details, BOQ and other tender documents which can be downloaded from the website: **https://tntenders.gov.in** free of cost. The tender inviting authority reserves the right to cancel or postpone the tender without assigning any reasons there for.

DIPR/ 1195 /TENDER/2024 **MANAGING DIRECTOR, TANHODA**

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Office, Mechanical Engineering Department K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027. Tele No.080-22537519
TENDER NO: BMTC/2023-24/SEO153/CALL3 Dated: 23.02.2024

SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through e-procurement mode only)

(1) BMTC invites Tender through E-Procurement Portal for Selection of Service Provider for Procurement, Operation and Maintenance of 320 Nos. low floor, 400mm floor height City type AC Electric Buses on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) Model.
(2) Last Date for Bid Submission in e-procurement portal is **01.03.2024 before 17.00 Hours.**

Any changes in calendar of events, scope or other terms & conditions will be uploaded in e-portal only.

NOTE: Interested Bidders need to register in the GoK e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further assistance, contact e-procurement Help Desk for support on bid submission over Ph: 080-46010000, or 080-68948777 or email at **eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com.**

Sd/- CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER, (Tender Inviting Authority)

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002
(E-mail:cetjusnl@gmail.com)

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances, tender invited vide NIT no. 373/PR/JUSNL/2023-24 for Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 400/220/132/33 kV, 2 x 500 + 2x200 +2x80 MVA Grid sub-station (excluding supply of 500 MVA Power Transformer) including construction of Control Room Building & approach road with other civil works at Koderma on turnkey basis is hereby cancelled.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570 (कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-
General Manager
C&M (NWBP)
JUSNL, Ranchi

PR No.- 316205
PR 320186 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd (23-24)_D

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION (CHENNAI) LIMITED
PALLAVAN HOUSE, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 002.
TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of MTC, e-tenders are invited for Procurement, Supply, Operation and Maintenance of low floor Electric Buses and Development of Allied Electric and Civil Infrastructure on Gross Cost Contracting (GCC).

TENDER SCHEDULE

Tender document download date start from	Tender document submission start date & time	Tender document submission end date & time	Tender will be opened on (Date & Time)	EMD amount in Rs.	Prebid meeting date and time
26.02.2024	15.04.2024 12.00 Hrs	29.04.2024 upto 16.00 Hrs	29.04.2024 at 16.30 Hrs	6,00,00,000/-	11.03.2024 at 15.00 Hrs

The tender documents are available in the tender websites **https://tntenders.gov.in, https://mtcbus.tn.gov.in, https://tnidb.tn.gov.in.** Bidders are requested to upload their tender documents through the Government e-procurement portal **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** only. Any modification (if any) in tender terms and tender invitation period will be uploaded in the websites and the tenderers are requested to go through the above website periodically.

MTC (Chennai) Ltd reserves the right to accept / Reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/ 1197 /TENDER/2024 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT
DINDIGUL CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Roc No.01241/2024/E4 NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFQ) Date:23.02.2024

The Commissioner, Dindigul City Municipal Corporation (DCMC) invites Request for Proposal (RFPs) through off-line for the work of **"Selection and Appointment of Project Management Consultants for Supervision and Monitoring of various scheme works implemented in DCMC".** The RFP documents will be available for downloaded from **24.02.2024** onwards till **11.03.2024** from the web portal **www.tntenders.gov.in.** The last date for submission of RFP's will be **11.03.2024** upto **3.00 PM.** A Pre-bid meeting will be held on **04.03.2024** at **11.00 AM** in the Office of the Dindigul City Municipal Corporation, Dindigul - 624 001. The details of the earnest money deposit and the eligibility criteria of the bidders are given in the RFP document.

Commissioner,
Dindigul City Municipal Corporation

DIPR/ 1198 /TENDER/2024

E-mail.ID-sectcrb_2006@yahoo.co.in ; Tel/Fax – 0671-2301751/2302751
Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK
('e' – PROCUREMENT NOTICE)
Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 44/2023-24

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road and Building work as mentioned below.
2. No. of work : 19 Nos.
3. Nature of work : Road and Building Work.
4. Class of contractor : 'B' & 'A' Class
5. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10000/- (Online)
6. Available of bid document in the web site : From 06.03.2024 to 17.30 Hours of 20.03.2024
7. Date of opening of bid : Dt. 21.03.2024 at 11.00 Hours.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle
B-1829: OIPR-34012/11/0070/2324

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e-mail ID - supenger_rbjyp@yahoo.co.in; Phone No.-06854-231528;
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE.
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.J.C (R&B)-37/2023-24
No.699, Date:19.02.2024

1. Nature of the Work : BUILDING WORKS
2. Total No. of Works : 03 (Three) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.1.85 Crs. to 4.69 Crs.
4. Period of completion : 07 (Seven) Months to 11 (Eleven) Months Each.
5. Cost of Bid Document : Rs.10,000/-
6. Bid Security (EMD) : Rs.1.85 to 4.69 Lac As per Column No. 06 of IFB
7. Class of Contractor : "B" & "A" Class as per cl.no.05 of TCN & according to Financial Eligibility
8. Date & time of availability of Bid document in the portal. : from 11.00 hours of 26.02.2024 to 17.00 hours of 11.03.2024.
9. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal. : 17.00 hours of 11.03.2024
10. Opening date of Bid : 10.00 hours of 12.03.2024
11. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Chief Construction Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Chief Construction Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore.
B-1831 OIPR-34108/11/0043/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Short Tender Call Notice E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 43/2023-24 Memo No.-527 Dt.20.02.2024

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building works as detailed in the table below:

1. Nature of Work : Building Works
2. No of Work : 8 Nos
3. Tender Cost : Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4. Class of Contractor : B & A Class & Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) / Regd. Farm
5. Available of Bid document in the Website : From 10.00 AM of Dt.26.02.2024 up to 05.00 PM of the Dt.04.03.2024 up to 5.00 PM
6. Date of opening of Bid : Dt 06.03.2024 at 11.30 AM
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website:**https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
B-1827 OIPR-34127/11/0054/2324

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client is intend to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from M/s. MYSORE PLASTICS AND CERAMICS PRIVATE LIMITED, having its registered office at No.A-110, Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560044. Any persons including an individual, a company, banks, financial institution(s), nonbanking financial institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, gift, trust, succession, possession, lease, tenancy, maintenance easement, license, bequeath, share, assignment, lien, attachment, development rights, right of way, lispendens, reservation, agreement, FSI consumption, development rights, or any liability or commitment or otherwise or demand of any nature whatsoever are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the documents, to the undersigned within a period of **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Eastern Portion of the Industrial Shed/Property bearing No.13/1, (Old No.A-83/13) PID No.21-40-13/1, totally measuring 372.35 square meters, together with 321.40 square meters of brick wall, sheet roofing and cement mortar, cement flooring, steel frames, shutters and windows together with all civic amenities, situated at 4th Main Road, KSIDC, Industrial Estate, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, now coming under the purview of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and has assigned the property as BBMP Property No.13/1, PID No.21-40-13/1. Ward No.106 - Dr. Rajkumar Ward, and bounded on:

East by : Road,
west by : Portion of the property bearing No. A-83/13,
North by : Open Land,
West by : Property bearing No. A-82.

H.R. SHREYAS
Advocate (KAR/1755/05)
No.593, 9th Cross, BHCS Layout, Near NPS School, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru-560061.
Cell: 9900627627

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client is intend to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from M/s. GLOBAL PRINTING AND PACKAGING COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED having its registered office at No.90/2, 3rd Main Road, Industrial Twon, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 044. Any persons including an individual, a company, banks, financial institution(s), nonbanking financial institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, gift, trust, succession, possession, lease, tenancy, maintenance easement, license, bequeath, share, assignment, lien, attachment, development rights, right of way, lispendens, reservation, agreement, FSI consumption, development rights, or any liability or commitment or otherwise or demand of any nature whatsoever are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the documents, to the undersigned within a period of **15 (Fifteen) days** from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Western Portion of the Industrial Shed/Property bearing No.13, (Old No.A-83/13) PID No.21-40-13, totally measuring 560 square meters, together with 410.40 square meters of brick wall, sheet roofing and cement mortar, cement flooring, steel frames, shutters and windows together with all civic amenities, situated at 4th Main Road, KSIDC, Industrial Estate, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, now coming under the purview of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and has assigned the property as BBMP Property No.13, PID No.21-40-13. Ward No.106 - Dr. Rajkumar Ward, and bounded on:

East by : Remaining portion of the property bearing No. A-83/13,
west by : Road,
North by : Open Land,
West by : Property bearing No. A-82.

H.R. SHREYAS
Advocate (KAR/1755/05)
No.593, 9th Cross, BHCS Layout, Near NPS School, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru-560061.
Cell: 9900627627

E-mail.ID-sectcrb_2006@yahoo.co.in ; Tel/Fax – 0671-2301751/2302751
Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK
('e' – PROCUREMENT NOTICE)
Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc.(R&B)43/2023-24

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road and Building work as mentioned below.
2. No. of work : 12 Nos.
3. Nature of work : Road & Building Work.
4. Class of contractor : 'B', 'A' & Special Class
5. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10000/- (Online)
6. Available of bid document in the web site : From 01.03.2024 to 17.30 Hours of 15.03.2024
7. Date of opening of bid : Dt. 16.03.2024 at 11.00 Hours.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle
B-1830: OIPR-34012/11/0071/2324

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A JOINT VENTURE OF GOVT. OF INDIA & GOVT. OF TAMIL NADU)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035

E-Tender Notice
National Competitive Bidding

CMRL invites tenders through CPP e-procurement Portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender document through National Competitive Bidding under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the work as detailed below:

Tender No: CMRL/CON/C4-DPT-02-BW-02/2024: "Construction of Road and Drain for a Length of Approximately 2.0 Km outside Poonamallee Depot Boundary."

(i) Document available from : 07/03/2024
(ii) Deadline for Bid submission : 15/04/2024 up-to 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, please visit :
www.chennaimetrorail.org : For NIT
https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app : For Downloading Bid Documents

DIPR/1185/Tender/2024 **Sd/- Director (Projects)**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DEPARTMENT OF TEXTILES
e-TENDER NOTICE FOR CONVERSION OF SINGLE YARN INTO DOUBLE YARN IN CONE / HANK FORM

E-tenders with two cover system in the prescribed format are invited from the Interested eligible parties for Conversion of Single Yarn into Double Yarn in Cone / Hank Form for 6 Cooperative Spinning Mills.

Required Quantity in MT	Required Earnest Money Deposit in (Rs.)	Date and time for availability of Bid document in the web portal	Last date and time for Online submission of Bid documents	Date and time of opening of Technical bid
4986 MT	3.00 Lakhs	29.02.2024 to 15.03.2024 10.30 A.M	15.03.2024 11.00 A.M	16.03.2024 12.00 Noon

Eligibility of the Tenderer and other conditions are stipulated in the Bid document.

Complete e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded at free of cost from the Government tender website **https://tntenders.gov.in**

The bidders have to participate online bidding only with digital signature certificate (DSC)

Pre-Bid Meeting: There will be a pre-bid meeting on 06.03.2024 from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon in the Conference Hall of the Commissionerate of Textiles, Chennai-34.

In case of any queries
Contact : **Deputy Director (Admin & Spinning)**
Telephone : **044-45020047**
Email ID : **ddadmin.dotex@tn.gov.in**

DIPR/1178/Tender/2024 **Joint Director (Admin & Spinning)/ Tender Inviting Authority**

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PANCHAYAT RAJ
ENGINEERING PROJECT DIVISION KALABURAGI
No:EE/RDPRE/PD/KLB/KKRDB /TS/TND/2023-24/836 Date:12/02/2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work: Improvements to Road from Mansinghnaik Tanda to Jafnanaik Tanda in Shorapur Taluka Yadgir District Under KKRDB Micro SCP 2023-24 Indent no. KRRDA/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT26 2) Head of account: KKRDB(micro) for the 2023-24 3) Amount put to tender: Indent No.26 Rs.1,26,25,676.92 4) Class of Contractor Class-III & above 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: 22-02-2024 to 02-03-2024 upto 4.00 pm 6) Tender Form Fee: As per Eprocurement Norms 7) E.M.D. Fee: Indent No.26 Rs.2,00,000.00 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: 22-02-2024 to 02-03-2024 upto 4.00 pm 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: 04-03-2024 After 11.00 am 10) Financial Bid opening Date: 05-03-2024 After 11.00 am 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, R.D. P.R.E. Project Division opposite Ambedkar hostel Rajapur Road Kalaburagi 12) Website Address : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIP/YDG/366/KSMC&A/2023-24 **Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi**

Govt. Of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, BIDAR
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಗವಾನಚೌಕ್–ಕಿಲಾ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೀದರ–585 401.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ 08482-231688, Email-eerdwsd.bdr1@gmail.com
Ref:EE/RDWSD/Bidar/PB-3&6/Tender/2023-24/2137 Date: 23.02.2024

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer RDWS & S Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible bidders for the works above **Rs. 3.75 Lakhs to 136.25 Lakhs (12 Nos of works)** as per KW-1,2,3 & 4 Standard Tender Bid Document under H/A KKRDB (Micro) and Jaladhare for the year 2023-24 through e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only. The KTPP Act shall be followed.

TIME SCHEDULE

1) Notification Date and Download of tender schedule documents through e portal: **23.02.2024 to 02.03.2024**, 2) Last date for submission of bids: **02.03.2024 Time : 17.00 PM**, 3) Date & Time of Technical bid opening: **04.03.2024 Time : 11.00 AM**, 4) Date & Time of Financial bid opening: After Technical bid Approval

For details of works and conditions, please contact this office in office hours or visit website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in where the details are available.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Bidar/300/KSMC&A/2023-24 **RDWS&S Division Bidar.**

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVE IN OMC LTD.

No. 89 / OMC **Date:23/02/2024**

OMC, a Gold category and one of the largest State PSUs in Mining Sector in the Country, undertakes exploration, mining and trading of iron, chrome, bauxite & limestone ores. Inspired by the vision to emerge as the market leader and to play a catalytic role in the growth of industrialization, OMC caters to the requirements of mineral based industries. The Corporation has achieved an annual turnover of Rs.14,449.57 crores in the FY 2022-23.

The Corporation invites application from dynamic & competent professionals in different disciplines as follows:

VACANCY

Sl. No	Name of the Post	Scale of Pay (in Rs.) (Level)	Initial Basic Pay (in Rs.) (Cell)	Total posts	No. of Posts Reserved for SC	ST	SEBC	UR	Age as on 31.01.2024
GEOLOGY CADRE									
1	General Manager (Geology), E-7 Grade	1,27,100/- to 2,16,300/- (Level-16)	1,38,800/ - (Cell-4)	01	-	-	-	01	Not above 55 years
FOREST & ENVIRONMENT CADRE									
2	Manager (Forest & Environment), E-3 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/- (Level-13)	78,500/- (Cell-6)	04	01	-	01	02	Not above 38 years
QUALITY CONTROL CADRE									
3	Manager (QC), E-3 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/- (Level-13)	78,500/- (Cell-6)	05 (1-W)	01	01	01	02 (1-W)	Not above 38 years
MEDICAL CADRE									
4	Medical Officer-III, E-2 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/- (Level-13)	67,700/- (Cell-1)	03	-	02	-	01	Not above 38 years
TOTAL				13	02	03	02	06	

Interested eligible candidates are advised to download the application format from OMC website: **https://omcltd.in>People>Career>Employment Opportunities** and submit the same duly filled in & signed along with attested copies of Certificates, Mark sheets, Experience Certificate etc. in support of their eligibility by **Speed Post/Courier** in a cover superscribed "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF....." so as to reach the **Executive Director (P&A)**, Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd., OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001 by **22.03.2024** positively. Applications received after the last date due to delay in **postal/courier** or any other reason shall not be entertained and will be rejected.

OMC Management reserves the right to cancel, amend or alter the above advertisement without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Executive Director (P&A)
ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LTD.
(A GOLD CATEGORY STATE PSU)
CAD-4271 OIPR-30005/11/0289/2324

Fifth SFC recommends equal distribution of funds in all BBMP wards, city corporations

The commission suggests BBMP should adopt latest guidance value-based assessment of property tax at the earliest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 5th State Finance Commission (SFC) has recommended to the State government on equal distribution of funds ward-wise in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and city corporations for equal development of all wards.

The 5th SFC headed by former MP C. Narayanaswamy, who prepared the report for 2024-25 and submitted it to Governor Tawarchaand Gehlot, said that "Many of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) do not allocate funds equitably among their municipal wards, which results in uneven development across ULBs,"

The report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, suggested that devolution of funds to bigger ULBs such as BBMP and city municipal corporations should be "ward-wise" to ensure equitable distribution of funds.

The 5th State Finance Commission report noted that the own source revenue of the BBMP in respect of property tax has increased marginally in the last six years. FILE PHOTO

It said that BBMP (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Rules, 2021) came into effect on March 10, 2022.

The rules provide for preparation of the Medium-Term Fiscal Plan along with the annual budget. The commission recommended that BBMP should prepare MTFP every year along with the budget.

The 5th SFC report noted that the own source revenue of BBMP in respect of property tax has increased marginally in the last six years.

The property tax in the BBMP area was yet to be assessed based on the latest guidance value principle which might fetch a substantial increase in the property tax revenue. It is reported that the process of survey of properties is underway which is expected to give a tax jump of about 30%.

Non-tax revenues
The non-tax revenue of the BBMP has declined from ₹1306 crore in 2016-17 to ₹1161 crore in 2021-22 reflecting inadequate efforts by the BBMP authorities.

The commission suggested that the BBMP should adopt latest guidance value-based assessment of property tax at the earliest and enhance efforts of the agencies for collection of intended non-tax revenue and in cases, it needed updating of existing laws, necessary action should be taken by the government.

'Improve revenue'
It suggested that all the ULBs should levy, revise and collect the property tax based on the guidance value revised periodically, to improve own source of revenue.

The SFC's role is to examine the financial situation of the PRIs and framing a formula for division of tax revenues such as taxes, duties, fines and toll fees between a state and its PRIs and ULBs.

24/7 animal rescue service launched at Brookefield and Whitefield

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tekion, an automative retail technology company, has partnered with Praana Animal Foundation, to introduce animal rescue/ambulance service in Brookefield and Whitefield localities of Bengaluru. Rana Robillard, Chief People Officer of Tekion, launched the 24x7 ambulance service on Thursday in the presence of multi-lingual actor Samyukta Hornad, Founder of Praana Animal Foundation, an NGO, specialising in animal welfare.

Dogs and cats
The ambulance service will aim at rescuing stray/community dogs and cats in distress in Brookefield and Whitefield. Residents of these localities can call Praana's Helpline 9108819998 to report stray/community animals in distress.

Volunteers from Praana will rescue such animals and transport them to the NGO's clinic/rehabilitation center in J.P. Nagar for treatment and care, according to a release.

Akshaya Patra Foundation delivers 4 billion meals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, operational partner of the Union government' PM POSHAN Abhiyaan, has crossed the threshold of delivering 4 billion nutritious meals to school children across the country.

2.2 million children
Founded in 2000 with the beginning of nourishing 1,500 children in five schools, Akshaya Patra has now flourished to serve over 2.2 million children daily across 24,000 plus schools in 16 states and two Union Territories, said a press release.

Chanchalapathi Dasa, Vice-Chairman, The Akshaya Patra Foundation, said, "We are immensely proud of reaching this significant milestone and remain dedicated to our vision of a future where no child in India is deprived of education because of hunger."

Two accused in Bitcoin scam get bail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two accused in the Bitcoin scam who were arrested in January secured bail from the 52nd Additional City Civil and Sessions Court.

The accused, identified as Police Inspector, Prashanth Babu and the CEO of a private firm Santosh Kumar, had allegedly stolen bitcoins from hacker Srikrishna Ramesh and his associate Robin Khandelwal.

Tax defaulters can make one time settlement online

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) said the tax defaulters/evaders can make one time settlement (OTS) online. The BBMP on Thursday notified this scheme to give flexibility to defaulters.

50% deduction
Under the scheme, the citizens paying OTS will enjoy a 50 per cent tax deduction. BBMP hopes to collect more tax through this. The BBMP also expects that an online platform would help boost recovery.

Those who want to pay online should visit https://bbmptax.karnataka.gov.in. Through the website, the taxpayers can make the payment.

The BBMP said the payment can be made at one go.

Architects up in arms over new civil engineers Bill

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Architects are opposing the Karnataka Professional Civil Engineers Bill, 2024, which was passed in both Houses saying it undermines the role of architects, town planners, and urban designers. The Bill has exclusively mandated registered engineers to approve the designs.

According to the Bill, the government will set up a council - Karnataka Council of Professional Civil Engineers (KCPCE) and civil engineers have to register with it to get a licence to practise. Even diploma holders with two years of experience can register with this panel. After opposition was raised, the government agreed to discuss the matter with the architects.

T.N. Subbaiah, a practising architect said, "The Architect's Act of 1972 is a central legislation that regulates the profession of architecture in India. The Act provides for registration of architects, standards of education, recognised qualifications, and standards of practice to be complied with by the practising architects. The Act also established the Council of Architecture as the statutory authority to oversee the implementation of the Act and its provisions."

"The KPCEA Bill, on the other hand, is a State-level legislation that seeks to regulate the practice of civil engineering in Karnataka. The bill proposes to create a Karnataka Professional Civil Engineers Council, which would have the power to issue licences, prescribe qualifications, and enforce standards for civil engineers. The KPCEA bill, if enacted, could overrule the provisions given to architects by the Architects Act of 1972," Mr. Subbaiah said.

The Bill could create a conflict of authority between the Central and State authorities, as both the Council of Architecture and the Karnataka Professional Civil Engineers Council would claim to regulate the domain of conceptual plans of buildings. The Bill could also undermine the autonomy and authority of the Council of Architecture, as the Karnataka Professional Civil Engineers Council would have the authority not to permit construction unless the design or drawing of the building is certified by a professional civil engineer, he said.

Mohan B.R., chairman, Indian Institute of Architects (Karnataka Chapter) talking to *The Hindu* said architects specifically study designing for five years and diploma holders do not have that qualification. "How can these engineers approve designs made by architects? The Bill is also violative of article 246 of the constitution," he said, adding that the Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation, H.K. Patil has promised to discuss the objections with the architects.

City records hottest February day at 34.5 degrees C

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

During the last few days, residents of Bengaluru have been complaining about the sweltering heat.

On Friday, the city recorded the highest maximum temperature in the month so far at 34.5 degrees Celsius.

Even on February 9 this year, the temperature had touched 34.2 degrees Celsius. However, the all-time high for maximum temperature (35.9 degrees) in Bengaluru was recorded on February 17, 2005.

"There were also three other occasions when the temperature was above 35 degrees Celsius," said A. Prasad, scientist, India Meteorological Department Bengaluru. The weatherman said that it is not likely for the record of 35.9 degrees to be beaten this year.

Further, as El Nino has begun to decline, it is also going to have a good impact on Indian monsoon, Mr. Prasad said.

Tourists from Visakhapatnam fined ₹25,000 for violating rules at Bandipur

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Two tourists from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh were fined ₹25,000 by authorities at the Bandipur Tiger Reserve for violating forest laws that endangered their lives.

The move is expected to send a strong message to visitors to the national park against disembarking from their vehicles to pose in front of wild animals – a tendency which has become a serious issue but fraught with danger.

The fine of ₹25,000 follows emergence of a video early this month in which two tourists were seen being chased by a wild elephant; one of them who tripped while running narrowly escaped being trampled by the elephant.

Based on the video which went viral on social media, the Forest Department traced the tourists to Visakhapatnam and issued a notice to them. The tourists appeared before the department personnel in Bandipur and confessed to having disembarked from the vehicle but pleaded that it was not to take a selfie but to relieve themselves. Ramesh Kumar, Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, said the other evidence against them was that one of them had dropped an expensive mobile phone when the elephant chased them and they had sought the assistance of the Forest Department to trace it for them.

Despite signage against parking and stopping vehicles in Bandipur, the rule is flouted. M.A. SRIRAM

"At that point the local beat guards, who tracked the phone for them, were oblivious of the forest rule violation and the chase involving the elephant," said Mr. Ramesh Kumar.

This is not the first time that the authorities have imposed such a hefty fine. A similar amount was levied on another group of tourists from Maharashtra for violation of rules.

Though the Forest Department has installed signage and boards warning public against parking in the middle of the forests or getting down from the vehicle, such warnings are ignored. The imposition of hefty amount as prescribed by the law is expected to reduce such violations.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, FEB. 24	
RISE 06:38	SET 18:27
RISE 18:27	SET 06:32
SUNDAY, FEB. 25	
RISE 06:38	SET 18:28
RISE 19:13	SET 07:08
MONDAY, FEB. 26	
RISE 06:37	SET 18:28
RISE 19:58	SET 07:42

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	23
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	33	21

Bengaluru Today
32°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night will remain slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

St Joseph's Institute of Management Hosts Leadership Conference-Utkarsh 2024

Recently SJIM hosted the 6th International Leadership Conference, UTKARSH 2024. Themed "Leading Digital Transformation," the conference featured over two dozen industry leaders discussing the impact of IoT, AI, and ML on businesses. Key highlights included keynote addresses by Mr. Chandrashekar Bharathi, MD of Micromatic Group, and Mr. George Varghese, CHRO of Shahi Exports Ltd. Over 70 papers were presented by scholars and faculty members, both physically and online. The event explored practical experiences, emerging technologies' impact, and social and ethical considerations in digital transformation. At the inaugural ceremony, Prof. Parthasarathi Shome and Prof. Vivek Moorthy were honored as Distinguished Professors of SJIM. UTKARSH 2024 emphasized the need for professionals to stay updated for effective navigation through the dynamic digital landscape.

Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences and University of Illinois collaborate to Advance in Engineering Sciences Education

Recently an important press meet was organised at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences to mark this collaborative event with University of Illinois. Aimed at nurturing skill development in cutting-edge fields of Engineering Sciences. Dr. Timothy Killeen, President of the University of Illinois System, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to visit Bengaluru and Ramaiah University. He emphasized the significance of researching deeper into the collaborative relationship, aiming for long-term and impactful partnerships. Dr. M R Jayaram, Chairman, GEF & Chancellor, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences emphasized the significant progress made over the past six years, noting the quicker growth and scale of collaboration. The collaboration signifies a pivotal step towards advancing education and research in emerging fields of Engineering Sciences. M R Sreenivasa Murthy, Chief Executive, Gokula Education Foundation, Prof. Kuldeep K Raina, VC, RUAS and other dignitaries were present during the press meet.

Four Weeks- Master Trainers Training Programme at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology

The program was jointly organised by the Civil Engineering Department of NMIT, The Society for 'Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya National Training Facility for Skills for All (BMVNTFSA)' and the Department of Skill Development,

Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, GOK Inaugurated at NMIT, Bengaluru. Pommala Sunil Kumar, IAS, Revenue Commissioner, GOK, while inaugurating the Four-Week Master Training Program speaking in this connection, he said to accelerate this process, they are training Master Trainers to enable them to arrange good number of skill development training programs across the State. They have successfully identified Super Trainers to train Master trainers to make them to understand the latest technological tools and new softwares. MTTP on the topic 'Planning, Analysis, Design and Detailing of Tall Buildings' aims to disseminate and share the latest advancements in Planning, Analysis, Design, Detailing and construction of Tall buildings. Dr. H.C. Nagaraj, Principal, NMIT presided over the function. Well-known Civil Engineer Er. Raj Pillai; Er. Srinivas Rao Kulkarni, Director, BMVNTFSA-MVCTMTSD, Muddenahalli ; Er. Nagaraj M, Director, AVANIM Designers, Bengaluru; Dr. V. Sridhar, Dean Academics, NMIT; Dr. V. Nagendra, Head, Department of Civil Engineering, NMIT, faculty members and participants from all over the State were present on the occasion.

International Conference on Transdisciplinary Research in Life Sciences: Perspectives and Prospects 2024 at Kristu Jayanti College Autonomous

A two-day International Conference on Trans disciplinary Research in Life Sciences was organised by The Department of Life Sciences, KJC Autonomous, in collaboration with The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU), Bengaluru. Aimed at exploring new perspectives and prospects in the field of life sciences through transdisciplinary research. The chief guest for the occasion was Padma Shri Prof. Darshan Shankar, VC of TDU and Managing Trustee, FRLHT, Bengaluru. Dr S. Natesh, Honorary Fellow at ATREE and former Senior Advisor (Scientist -H), Department of Biotechnology, GOI, was the guest of honour. Dean Dr Calistus Jude commenced the event with a warm welcome address. Fr. Dr Augustine George CMI, Principal, KJC, who delivered the presidential address and expressed his delight in hosting such a significant event. After the dignitaries speech a book of abstracts with papers received from students and researchers of various national and international institutions around the country and the world was released on the occasion. The two day international conference with more than 200 delegates witnessed seven plenary sessions spanning diverse domains and more than 100 oral presentations and poster presentations.

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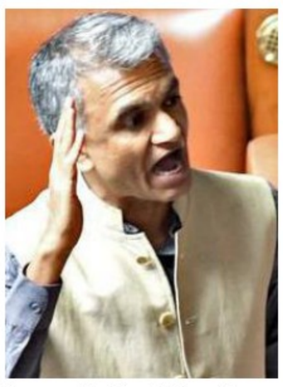
Assembly passes Bill exempting advisers of CM, Dy. CM from disqualification

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst pandemonium on Friday, the Legislative Assembly passed the Karnataka Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 2024, for exempting the advisers to the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister from disqualification for being a member of the Legislative Assembly or a Member of the Legislative Council on such appointments.



Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda addressing the Assembly in Bengaluru on Friday.

The Bill was necessitated as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had appointed MLAs as his political and economic advisers.

The Bill also exempted the Chairman or the Member to any Commission and the Vice-Chairman of the State Institute for Transformation of Karnataka from disqualification for being a member of the Assembly or of the Council.

The Bill amended the Karnataka Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1956, according to Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil.

Bagair hukum

The Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was also passed in the Assembly. According to the Bill, if an MLA is not interested in being a member of the Bagair Hukum Committee, the State Government is empowered to nominate any resident of the constituency as a member of the committee.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said that if an MLA has no interest in becoming a member of the committee owing to a busy schedule, then constituting the committee would be delayed. The High Court has taken serious note to remove encroachment of government land and directed formation of the committee, according to the Bill.

Generally, MLAs are appointed as members of the committee formed to regularise unauthorised cultivation of agriculture land in the respective Assembly constituency.

If the MLA or the leader of the opposition or the Minister felt that he or she cannot become a member of the committee owing to time constraints, the member concerned can give in writing to the government to appoint any resident of the constituency to the committee, Mr Gowda said.

The BJP and JD (S) members continued their dharna in the well of the House seeking withdrawal of the resolution, which was passed on February 22.

Following the continued dharna by the Opposition, the House was adjourned for the day, to meet on February 26.

Loss of face for State govt. as Council rejects amendments to Endowments Act

BJP and JD(S) take exception to 10% of income from richer temples being put in a Common Pool Fund to aid poorer temples and archakas

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a setback to the Congress government, the Legislative Council on Friday rejected amendments to Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997, that sought to provide social security measures to over 40,000 archakas of Muzrai temples in the State, among other changes.

Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy

Second setback

The amendment Bill, which saw opposition to a few provisions from the BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular) members during the debate, was defeated by a voice vote as the combined Opposition commands a majority in the House. This is the second setback for the government in the Budget session as, on Wednesday, the council had referred the Karnataka Souharda Cooperative (Amendment) Bill, 2024, to the House Committee.

Among the proposals, the Opposition took exception to include 10% of the gross income of 87 temples with annual income of over ₹1 crore and 5% of gross income from 311 temples with gross income of over ₹10 lakh being put into a Common Pool Fund, administered by Rajya Dharmika Parishath. Money thus collected was proposed to be used for archakas welfare and upkeep of over 34,000 'C' category temples whose annual income is less than ₹5 lakh. The proposal is a departure from the earlier amendment in 2011 where 5% of the net income of temples with annual income between ₹5 lakh and ₹10 lakh and 10% of the net income of temples with annual income of over ₹10 lakh would come to the fund.

Misinterpretation

On Thursday, Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy had issued clarification on the proposed Bill after the BJP "misinterpreted" the proposals and tried to give a "communal angle."

Participating in the debate on the Bill, Leader of the Opposition Kota Srinivas Poojary, who held Muzrai portfolio during the BJP regime, welcomed the move to provide social security measures to archakas working in over 34,000 'C' category temples. He also welcomed the proposal to provide representation to some communities in the temple committees.

However, he opposed the proposal of 10% of the gross income of the temples going to Common Pool Fund. He also opposed the proposal of nomination of the president of the temple committee by the government, and said that the committee can chose president from among its own members.

"The government can consider taking 10% of the remaining amount after the temple meets its expenses. Instead of taking money from temples. Why is the government not willing to provide the amount in the Budget? When the government is already providing a Tasdiq allowance of ₹170 crore to 'C' category temples, what is preventing the government to provide for archakas?" he sought to know.

Offering to make changes in the amendment Bill, Mr. Reddy said the government was willing to stay away from the president's nomination and even reduce the percentage to be taken to the common pool. "For long, archakas in 'C' category temples have not received anything. We intend to offer financial assistance for housing, children's education, and insurance. With the proposal, we are expecting about ₹60 crore. The 'C' category temples will get ₹25 crore for their upkeep from this," he said, adding that till now about ₹10 crore was being collected.

Mr. Reddy also clarified that he was not bringing any drastic changes to the Bill as the previous BJP government in 2011 had allowed 10% of the temples' net collection to be taken for Common Pool Fund. On the suggestion that the amount could be earmarked in the Budget, he said: "I can convince the government to provide money this year, but what if it is not possible next year?"

When the Opposition insisted on changes before the passage of the Bill, the Minister sought time till Monday as he needed to consult the Chief Minister since it had financial implications.

However, Deputy Speaker M.K. Pranesh, who was in chair, said such postponement was not possible as the House has already considered the Bill. He adjourned the House for 15 minutes to enable leaders to come to an understanding. However, soon after the House re-assembled, he put the Bill to vote and it was defeated.

Din over adoption of resolution condemning Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pandemonium prevailed in the Legislative Assembly on Friday as BJP and JD(S) members continued their protest in the well of the House demanding that the government withdraw a resolution adopted on February 22 condemning the "step-motherly attitude of the Centre which is destroying the State's economy by causing huge financial losses by denying it the rightful share of taxes, Central funds, and drought as well as flood relief."

BJP members staging a protest against the State government in the Assembly on Friday. ANI

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok condemned the Congress government's decision to bring the resolution in the House without prior discussion at the Business Advisory Committee meeting and without listing it in the day's agenda. "The Congress government has every right to criticise the Centre outside the House. However, the passage of the resolution by the House would further escalate the confrontation between the State and the Centre, and the people of the State would suffer," he said.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil defended the government's decision to bring the resolution and said that it did not require the Opposition's approval. The resolution was adopted for providing justice to seven crore people of Karnataka, he said.

House adjourned briefly

As the Opposition continued to protest, Speaker U.T. Khader adjourned the House for 10 minutes and met leaders of the Opposition and ruling parties.

When the House resumed its proceedings, the Opposition continued their protest while two Bills and government's reports were tabled.

To counter the ruling Congress government's resolution, Mr. Ashok read out the Opposition's resolution when the Speaker took up Bills for discussion amidst the din.

Though the Speaker had not granted permission to Mr. Ashok to read the resolution, he went ahead. The Opposition's resolution stated, "We all must show our commitment to take the share of Karnataka for the overall development of the State. But we must strongly criticise the politically motivated and wrong statistics to portray the Centre in a bad angle. We will strongly condemn the resolution adopted by the Congress government on the economy. The government must stop the attitude of blaming the government of India for everything to cover up its failures to ensure the economic growth due to poor tax collection."

In view of the protest by the Opposition, the Speaker eventually adjourned the House for the day.

Budget session extended for a day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Budget session of the Karnataka State legislature, which was to end on Friday, has been extended for a day till Monday. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is expected to reply to the discussion on the Budget for 2024-25 on Monday, Speaker U.T. Khader informed.

986 teen pregnancies in State in 3 years? Members say numbers are wrong

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The statistics provided by the Karnataka government on teenage pregnancies and reasons given for child marriages in the State came under criticism on Friday as Council members trained their guns at Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar for not providing comprehensive figures.

Legislators Bharathi Shetty of BJP and S. Umashree of the Congress in the Legislative Council took objection to the statistics provided by the government, which said that 986 teenage pregnancies had been reported in the State over the last three years. Ms. Shetty, who posed the question, disagreed with the figures and said that reports in media had revealed higher numbers. She said that awareness has to be created among children studying between seventh and tenth standard.

Ms. Umashree, a former Women and Child Development Minister, also took objection to the figures, and pointed out that the data with the Health Department had a higher figure.

Reasons draw flak

While the State government cited "negligence by parents" and "love affairs" as reasons for child pregnancies, members took exceptions. "Is this an answer? Which parent would encourage this? How can parents be responsible? The department has given a frivolous answer," Ms. Shetty said. While Ms. Umashree pointed out that child marriages are higher in border areas as they cross over to neighbouring States to conduct marriages, the government had also said that teenage pregnancies are rising in Kolar that borders Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Concurring with the views of the members, Ms. Hebbalkar said: "As a woman, even I do not agree with the answers provided." She also said that she would convene a meeting of women legislators to discuss the issues.

Irrigation projects: 'Focus now on completing ongoing works'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indicating stress on finances, Deputy Chief Minister and Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday said that the government was now focussed on completing ongoing works and new projects would be taken up based on financial strength.

D.K. Shivakumar

Currently, ₹1.25 lakh crore worth of works are under progress whereas the budgetary support to the department is ₹19,000 crore, he told the Legislative Council. Bills are not being paid and 10% to 15% of the bill amount is being settled, the Deputy Chief Minister said in response to a question from BJP member Y.M. Satish.

Responding to a plea made by Mr. Satish to take up three irrigation works related to filling up tanks in Ballari district from the backwaters of Tungabhadra reservoir, he said that new works can be started after getting financial strength. He also said that proposal will be made before the Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation to facilitate use of funds available for the project in Ballari since it is a mining-affected area.

To a question from P.H. Poojar on Upper Krishna Project, Mr. Shivakumar said there is pressure to acquire land and not wait till the notification of Krishna II award. "So far, about 28,668 acres have been acquired of the total 1.33 lakh acres required when the height is increased to 524 m from 519 m. We want to complete the existing projects and budgetary allocation is only ₹19,000 crore. We want the notification to be done," he said.

Drip irrigation

Responding to a question from Congress member Sharanagouda Bayyapur, Mr. Shivakumar said that Karnataka will study the Madhya Pradesh model in distribution of water for drip irrigation.

High Court refuses to dismiss petition challenging election of Haris as MLA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has decided to continue hearing on a petition questioning the legality of the election of Congress party's N.A. Haris to the State Legislative Assembly from Shantinagar constituency in the election held in 2023.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order recently while dismissing an application filed Mr. Haris seeking dismissal of the petition, filed by defeated candidate, K. Shivakumar of the BJP. The petitioner had contended that acceptance of nomination papers of Mr. Haris by the returning officer improper as it did not contain proper details and false declaration of various information required to be disclosed as per the law.

Centre rejects ₹2,594-crore proposal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre has rejected the Karnataka's State government's proposal for ₹2,594 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojane meant to benefit dry land areas in the State to extend irrigation coverage and increase water use efficiency.

Revealing the recent development, Minor Irrigation Minister N.S. Bose Raju on Friday told the Legislative Council that the Centre has conveyed to the State that due to non-availability of funds, the proposal has not been accepted.

"However, the only project under the scheme has been approved for the constituency (Dharwad) of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi at a cost of ₹76 crore," he said.

He said that the Centre has conveyed its decision on February 9. About 60% of the project cost is to be borne by the Centre while the rest will be the responsibility of the State. "The proposal that would have improved dry land cultivation and improve ground water level had been submitted to the Central Water Commission, and delegations by the State, including the Central Ministers, had met Water Resources Minister," he added.

All electrical installations of GPs should be metered, recommends 5th State Finance Commission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 5th State Finance Commission (SFC) has recommended to the State government that all electrical installations of gram panchayats (GPs) should be metered and the present arrears of power consumption charges be settled with electricity supply companies (ESCOMs) through the intervention of the government.

The 5th SFC headed by former MP C. Narayanaswamy prepared its report for the year 2024-25 and submitted it to Governor Thawaarchand Gehlot and it said that "unreasonable" power consumption billing by ESCOMs for street lighting, drinking water supply systems, and panchayat buildings in the absence of metered units, by levying flat rates for defunct borewells and unmetered streetlights, had resulted in huge arrears of ₹8,323.25 crore as on December 2023.

"This is happening despite payment through Escrow accounts out of SFC grants of the GPs," it said. During 2015, the arrears of GPs of ₹2,960.23 crore as principal and ₹806.59 crore as penalty/interest, totalling ₹3,766.82 crore, were settled through securitisation by the government.

Through the intervention of the government, the SFC report said the huge amount of interest/penalty could be avoided and the same could be used for development works. "Whatever there are conflicting claims between the ESCOMs and the GPs, the GPs could be advised to avoid such mounting bills by reconciliation through joint verification of bills by EO of TP, AEE of ESCOM, and president and PDO of GP periodically," the report suggested.

The report, which was tabled in the Assembly on Friday, recommended sharing of resources at the ratio of 51:49 between State and local bodies for the year 2024-25.

The own source revenue of GPs from 2016-17 to 2022-23 has increased from ₹306 crore to ₹771 crore and the collection was 90%. However, the outstanding dues was ₹1696 crore in 2022-23. The collection of arrears was poor, it said, and recommended that GP should maintain the same tempo in the collection of arrears too.

ISRO: PAPA detects solar wind impact of coronal mass ejections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Friday said that the Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA) payload onboard the Aditya-L1 has detected the impact of coronal mass ejections (CMEs).

"Its advanced sensors have successfully detected the impact of CMEs, including those that occurred during February 10-11, 2024," ISRO said.

PAPA is an energy and mass analyser designed for in-situ measurements of solar wind electrons and ions in the low energy range. It has two sensors: the Solar Wind Electron Energy Probe (SWEEP, measuring electrons in the energy range of 10 eV to 3 keV) and the Solar Wind Ion Composition Analyser (SWICAR, measuring ions in the energy range of 10 eV to 25 keV and mass range of 1-60 amu). The sensors are also equipped to measure the direction of arrival of solar wind particles.

The payload has been operational since December 12, 2023.

"The SWEEP and SWICAR sensors on PAPA-Aditya-L1 are currently making continuous observations of solar wind electrons and ions in the default mode, demonstrating that they are performing as per the design in all modes of operations," ISRO added.

'A political party can be arraigned as accused person in defamation case'

Karnataka HC refuses to quash case registered against BJP on a complaint by Congress legislator Rizwan Arshad

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a setback to the Bharatiya Janata Party's State unit, the High Court of Karnataka on Friday refused to quash a defamation case registered against the party, while declaring that an association of individuals, whether incorporated or not, like the petitioner-party, could be arraigned as an accused in a defamation case.

"... The word 'whoever' *inter alia* employed in sections 499 & 500 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) implicitly includes an association of individuals, whether incorporated or not, like the petitioner and such entities can be arraigned as accused in criminal proceedings of the kind," the court held.

The HC made it clear that its observations were confined to disposal of the petition and would not prejudice any contention of the parties in the defamation proceedings before the special court

Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by the BJP's State unit questioning the cognisance of the offence of defamation taken against the party by the special court of magistrate for trial of cases against MPs/MLAs in 2022, on a complaint lodged by Rizwan Arshad, a Congress legislator.

Case filed in 2019

The case goes back to 2019 when Mr. Arshad was a Member of the Legislative Council, as the BJP had made a series of posts through social media handle by accusing him of allegedly indulging in election-related malpractices. The BJP and one Balaji Ashwin were arraigned as accused in the complaint.

By rejecting the BJP's contention that the party could not be treated as a "person" within the meaning of Sections 499 and 500 of IPC, the court agreed with contention raised on behalf Mr. Arshad that Section 11 of the IPC defines "person" in an inclusive way with the text: "The word 'person' includes any company or association or body of persons, whether incorporated or not."

"... Even legal persons like governments, companies, deities, trade unions, can also have reputation. As a corollary of this, there can be a proceeding of the kind against such persons, as well...," the court observed.

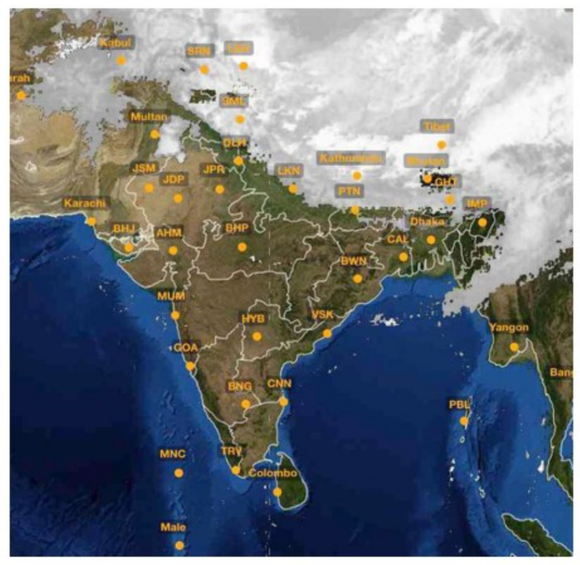
Reputation of parties

"A vibrant democracy like ours warrants a reasonable protection of reputation of political parties and elected representatives. Therefore, the tort or offence of defamation cannot be viewed leniently merely because punishment prescribed for the offence is not stringent. Excluding political parties from the purview of Sections 499 and 500 of IPC would deleteriously mask this perspective," Justice Dixit observed.

On BJP's claim that the intention on the posts could not be attributed to it, the court said that it was difficult to countenance such contention in view of the inclusive definition of "person" and there being a natural person as a co-accused in the defamation proceedings. However, the High Court made it clear that its observations were confined to disposal of the petition and would not prejudice any contention of the parties in the defamation proceedings before the special court.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Gangetic West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	34	25.6	19.4	Kozhikode	—	34.9	25.2
Ahmedabad	—	31.1	14.0	Kurnool	—	37.4	22.3
Aizawl	20	20.5	17.6	Lucknow	—	26.5	11.9
Allahabad	0.3	28.8	12.1	Madurai	—	38.3	25.1
Bengaluru	—	34.5	21.0	Mangaluru	—	32.2	22.0
Bhopal	—	27.0	14.4	Mumbai	—	31.2	19.5
Bhubaneswar	—	32.8	21.8	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	24.0	8.8	New Delhi	—	24.4	7.6
Chennai	—	34.0	26.6	Patna	0.2	25.7	17.2
Coimbatore	—	36.6	23.4	Port Blair	—	29.9	22.4
Dehradun	—	23.8	6.5	Puducherry	—	33.2	26.2
Gangtok	—	14.5	6.9	Pune	—	32.5	13.9
Goa	—	31.8	20.0	Raipur	—	32.0	19.4
Guwahati	1	28.3	16.2	Ranchi	—	25.0	10.4
Hubballi	—	35.0	18.0	Shillong	9	18.1	7.8
Hyderabad	—	33.7	21.2	Shimla	—	15.4	4.4
Imphal	35	18.3	15.2	Srinagar	—	10.2	-2.6
Jaipur	—	25.2	12.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.9	24.7
Kochi	—	31.8	26.0	Tiruchi	—	37.7	25.2
Kohima	37	16.2	8.6	Vijayawada	—	34.6	25.0
Kolkata	4	29.1	20.4	Visakhapatnam	—	31.4	24.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	7	36	.15	206	122	
Bengaluru	9	53	.40	117	165	
Chennai	4	19	.62	98	118	
Delhi	11	55	.50	208	158	
Hyderabad	4	32	.35	143	111	
Kolkata	11	38	.14	107	95	
Lucknow	3	42	.61	86	117	
Mumbai	14	104	101	48	67	
Pune	107	150	111	83	86	
Visakhapatnam	13	43	.22	74	104	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 286 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

CPI(M)'s LDF, Congress' UDF share honours in bypolls

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) won 10 seats each in the byelections held to 23 local body wards, but the LDF had more reasons to cheer as it managed to wrest a number of seats from both the UDF and the BJP.

The LDF [CPI candidate] won the Vellar ward in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, the only Corporation ward in the fray, from the BJP. Panathura P. Baiju of the CPI defeated his BJP rival by a margin of 151 votes, the State Election Commission said on Friday.

The UDF won 10 seats, the LDF also secured 10, including one Left-backed Independent, and the BJP, three. The UDF tally fell from 13 last time to 10, while the LDF increased its tally from five to 10. The BJP saw its tally slip from four to three.

The LDF wrested Kalpaka Nagar in Nedumbassery panchayat (Ernakulam), Pathiyarkulangara in Mullasseri panchayat (Thrissur) and Mammakunnu in Muzupilangad panchayat (Kannur) from the UDF. In Eruthenpathy panchayat (Palakkad), LDF-backed Independent Martin Antony won the Pidarimed ward which was held by the UDF.

The LDF wrested the Vellar ward in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, Kunnanad in Ottasekharamangalam grama panchayat (Thiruvananthapuram), and Kariyode in Chadayamangalam panchayat (Kollam) from the BJP.The LDF lost the Kidangara Bazaar South in Veliyanad panchayat (Alappuzha) to the BJP by one vote.

On its part, the UDF wrested the Netaji ward in Edavanakkad panchayat (Ernakulam) from the LDF. The UDF also retained eight of its sitting seats, which included six of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML).

All the UDF seats that were lost to the LDF were sitting seats of the Congress. The Congress won four and the IUML six for the UDF. For the LDF, the CPI(M) won seven and the CPI three.

Survey to identify ineligible members of construction workers welfare board

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government will conduct house-to-house survey to identify ineligible persons who have enrolled as members of Karnataka State Construction and Other Workers' Welfare Board, Labour Minister Santosh Lad said on Friday.

"As many as 39 lakh workers have been added in the last few years. From 12.91 lakh in 2018, the numbers had gone up to 51 lakh of which six lakh has been removed already. The Statewide audit of workers would be taken up through Ambedkar Karmika Seva Kendra and the audit to identify ineligible workers would be completed in the next six to seven months," the Minister told the Legislative Council in response to a question from Congress member U.B. Venkatesh. "People owning luxury cars, land owners, GST number holders, and lecturers among others have been found to have become members," he said.

In Haveri district alone, Mr. Lad said 2.7 lakh members of the Board have been found ineligible during the departmental audit. "Since we do not have enough personnel, house-to-house survey will be done through the Ambedkar Karmika Seva Kendra," he said.

Reduction in scholarship

To a question from BJP member Prathap Simha Nayak on steep downward revision of the scholarship amount for children of construction workers, Mr. Lad said: "The scholarship amount had been increased three to ten times in 2021. Without downward revision, ₹2,500 crore was needed for 13 lakh applications. In the last four to five years, ₹6,500 crore has been spent. Currently, ₹6,500 crore is available in the corpus and 14 other programmes have to be implemented besides scholarships. We would have closed the Board in two years if scholarship was not revised as annual receipt is only about ₹1,000 crore." Efforts are also being made to increase the annual receipts to around ₹2,500 crore, he said.

After woman's death, focus on risks of home births

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The death of a 36-year-old woman and her unborn child at Karakkamandapam in Thiruvananthapuram two days ago, following attempted child birth at home, has suddenly focused all attention on the small proportion of home births happening across Kerala, which mar the impeccable record that the State has maintained in maternal and child health.

The State takes much pride in having achieved near 100% institutional deliveries. The proportion of institutional deliveries in the State has been consistently above 99.5% since 2005. During the National Family Health Survey-4 and NFHS-5 (2019-20), it was 99.8%.

Holy visit

Prayer time: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his Cabinet Ministers visit Medaram Jatara, the four-day biennial festival, in Mulugu district on Friday. The jatara is the largest tribal religious congregation in the country. NAGARA GOPAL

Six people die in road accident in Belagavi district

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Six people died in a road accident and one was injured near Haroorgeri in Belagavi district on Friday.

A driver, who lost control of his car, rammed two motorbikes before hitting a tree on Jat-Jamboti highway in the evening.

The dead are car driver Eknath Padatare, 22, Lakshmi Marathe, 19, Mallikarjun Marathe, 16, Akash Marathe, 14, motorbike rider Nagappa Yadvannavar, 48, and Malappa Malyagol, 42. Another motorbike rider Balananda Malagi, 37, who was injured, is getting treated in a hospital.

A driver, who lost control of his car, rammed two motorbikes before hitting a tree on Jat-Jamboti highway in the evening

A team led by Additional Superintendent of Police Ramagonda Basaragi, Deputy Superintendent of Police Shripad Jalde and Circle Inspector Ravi Badafakirappanavar visited the spot.

The team members removed the bodies and admitted the injured to hospital.

A case has been registered.

'If we protect our Constitution, it will protect us'

Social Welfare Minister says freedom of expression is under threat and constitutionally created bodies are used as political weapons

INTERVIEW

H.C. Mahadevappa

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Constitution awareness campaign launched by the Karnataka government on January 26 will culminate in Bengaluru on Saturday and Sunday, with the Constitution and National Unity of India Convention being held at the Palace Grounds.

Scholars, policymakers, and thought leaders at the two-day event will discuss and debate the problems faced by the country, the needs of the people, solutions provided in the Constitution, and the challenges ahead.

H.C. Mahadevappa, Minister for Social Welfare, shared with *The Hindu* his thoughts about the convention being helmed by his department. Excerpts from the interview:

What is the purpose of the campaign and convention?

People at large, and the elected government in particular, must realise and understand the dedicated work done by our forefathers, thinkers, freedom fighters and makers of the great Constitution of the largest democratic country in the world. There continues inequality, discrimination, and divisions in the name of caste and religion, while the Constitution gives no scope for this. That is why the convention and the Constitution awareness campaign. If we protect our Constitution, the Constitution will protect us.

Has the awareness campaign been successful?

Karnataka leads in enabling its citizens to become highly informed about the Constitution. The government launched a month-long programme on the Republic Day. As part of it,

H.C. Mahadevappa, Minister for Social Welfare. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

awareness jathas were held in all the districts, with 1,025 special events covering 5,600 gram panchayats. It featured 50 tableaux which depicted contents related to the Constitution.

The jathas spread awareness of the Constitution through 1,415 rallies. Mobile vans equipped with LED screens played short movies on the essence of the Constitution and disseminated information on how it was prepared and adopted.

Over a lakh people got copies of the Preamble to the Constitution. The social media has reached lakhs of people. The State government organized more than 66 district-level, 12 State-level and 21 international-level special activities to promote the campaign.

CMCA (Children's Movement for Civic Awareness), a Bengaluru-based NGO, along with the Department of Social Welfare, Karnataka, has trained social science teachers to set up clubs to create awareness about the Constitution in 800 schools in Karnataka.

We have also made it mandatory in schools and colleges, universities for students to read the preamble of the constitution. This is not for any political party and not for any religion or people of the region.

Are there threats to the Constitution of India?

Certainly, freedom of expression is under threat today, and fundamentalism is on the rise. Constitutionally created bodies are used as political weapons. The Spirit of the Constitution is forgotten. Therefore, people should know that our constitution provides for justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

X factor

Courts must act against blocking of social media posts

That the use of Internet shutdowns and arbitrary curbs on free speech on social media have become a rampant tool for those in power is evident in the manner in which the Bharatiya Janata Party-led State governments of Haryana and Rajasthan and the Union government have dealt with the farmer protests. These State governments have used Internet shutdowns arbitrarily, and without adequate cause, using vague reasons related to the prospective breakdown of law and order and without any actual evidence to implement such shutdowns, thus failing the proportionality tests laid out in *Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India*. The Union government, on the other hand, has used its oft-deployed device of issuing notices to social media companies such as X to block the accounts of those leading or even supporting the protests without even issuing the reasons to those who hold these accounts. In the past, X, when it was known as Twitter, did not accede to all blocking requests unless they ran afoul of its own rules or were not sufficiently issued with recorded reasons among other considerations. Twitter/X had also approached the Karnataka High Court to challenge several of the blanket blocking orders that were issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology during the earlier round of farmer protests in 2020-21. The High Court had, in a problematic judgment by a single judge, dismissed X's petition, but later admitted an appeal by the firm and hearings are under way.

Unfortunately, X, ever since Elon Musk's takeover, has not been publishing its transparency reports that indicate the number of legal requests made by Indian state agencies to block, take down content or accounts. By admitting that it has decided to withhold accounts and posts flagged by the government, even if it disagreed with these actions, X was giving up any recourse for its users affected by these actions. This is not unexpected; X under Mr. Musk is no longer a thriving platform for free speech that strives to promote discussion, information-sharing and even critique of governments. It now takes its cue from the views and business interests of its owner. But it is even more worrisome that the extant judgment in the Karnataka High Court has given credence to the idea that government authorities enjoy a wide berth in issuing content blocking orders without the need to provide notices to the originators of the content or even seeking account-level blocking without valid reasoning. It is hoped that X's appeal in the High Court will definitively clarify the rights and obligations of social media companies over content on its platforms. As for the government, it does not seem to be concerned at all about what such actions mean to India's reputation as a free, open and democratic society, a key reason for social media companies to operate in the country, beyond just the presence of a large consumer base.

On the long road

Current ground realities, and not past glory, will shape seat adjustments

After doddering for the past few months, the Opposition has got a shot in the arm with Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress finalising their seat-sharing agreement in Uttar Pradesh. This is a milestone in the long road to opposition unity that still remains distant at a national level against the BJP. The agreement sees each side gaining something in the bargain. The Congress has got a respectable figure, though out of the 17 seats that it will contest, not many hold much electoral promise against a dominant BJP. Sonia Gandhi will not be contesting Rae Bareli, which the Congress has won 17 times since 1952. Whether one or both of her children, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, will contest, choosing between Rae Bareli and neighbouring Amethi, remains an open question. Mr. Gandhi is trying to bring his battle against the BJP to the heartlands of U.P. As for the SP, the alliance is crucial in sustaining its social base of Yadavs and Muslims which resists the BJP. The Congress and the SP have found their alliance not merely mutually beneficial but also critical for their survival. It should be noted, however, that an alliance is no guarantee of victory. In 2019, the SP-BSP alliance could not aggregate its individual vote shares of 2014, and ended up a distant second to the BJP.

The SP-Congress tie-up is the rare good news that the INDIA bloc needs, hit by attrition with the exit of two of its partners, the Janata Dal (United) in Bihar and the Rashtriya Lok Dal in Uttar Pradesh, in recent days. In West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress and Congress are again in talks, though the broad contours of the conversation have not changed. The TMC remains adamant on conceding only two seats in the State and wanting a seat in Meghalaya and two in Assam. Neither have the conditions that led to the breakdown in talks improved since then. Coinciding with the revival of negotiations, Congress State President Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury visited Sandeshkhali, which is the new battleground between the TMC and the BJP. Attacking West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, he called her the "queen of cruelty". Opposition parties have not been able to announce seat sharing in Tamil Nadu and Bihar as yet. For the alliance to seamlessly work, the dominant partners in each State will have to cede ground to others, setting aside their own aspirations, while others will have to show the grace to accept the ground realities without basking in past glory.

Changing the growth paradigm

Arun Maira

is the author of 'Shaping the Future (A Guide for Systems' Leaders)'

More GDP does not improve the well-being of citizens if it does not put more income in their pockets, he says. They need decent jobs, which the Indian economy has not provided despite impressive growth of GDP.

The health of any complex system, whether the human body or a nation's economy, cannot be determined by its size. What matters is the shape it is in. GDP growth has become the dominant measure of the health of all economies. The dominant paradigm is, first, increase the size of the pie before its redistribution. It has replaced "socialist" models which were concerned with conditions at the bottom.

Economists do not agree on how the well-being of citizens should be measured; and what the best measures of poverty, employment, and adequate income are. In their models, such hard-to-quantify conditions are taken care of by some invisible hand when GDP grows. India is becoming one of the most unequal countries in the world with this flawed model of economic progress.

The Finance Minister is not responsible for the poor shape of the Indian economy. All Indian governments, since the liberalisation of the economy in 1991, have focused on GDP. GDP grew at 7.2% per year in the 10 years of United Progressive Alliance rule (excluding 2008-09, when the global financial crisis hit); and also at 7.2% in the National Democratic Alliance's 10 years (excluding the 2020-21 global COVID-19 pandemic shock). There was no difference in growth. But, structural conditions that cause inequitable growth have also not changed. In fact, they have worsened.

Inclusive and sustainable development

All economies in the world develop through similar stages, according to economists. First, populations move from agriculture to industry, and then to services.

Simultaneously, they move from rural to urban. In this, "one path for all", model of progress, villages are bad, and cities are good; and farms are bad, and factories are good. According to this theory of progress, India has not developed sufficiently because both industrialisation and urbanisation have been too slow. India must address the global climate crisis while growing its own economy to catch-up with developed countries. With the present model of progress, India must use more fossil fuels to propel economic growth. This has become a bone of contention in global climate negotiations, where all countries are expected to make equal sacrifices to save the global climate. Therefore, India must find a new paradigm of progress, for itself and for the world, for more inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth. What could this paradigm be?

India's policymakers must free themselves from western-dominated theories of economics; in this, local solutions are the way to solve global systemic problems

Fossil fuels and the modern economy

The Czech-Canadian environmental scientist, Vaclav Smil, provides a blueprint in his book, *How the World Really Works: A Scientist's Guide to Our Past, Present, and Future* (2023).

He analyses the use of fossil fuels in the modern economy. They are used in the production and the distribution of four foundational materials for modern civilization: steel, concrete, plastics, and food. Steel and concrete are required for buildings, roads, and bridges, which provide the basic needs of habitation and transport. Steel is also the backbone of most machinery.

Moreover, almost all mobile machinery used for transportation and farming runs on fossil fuels. Plastics in many compositions have become ubiquitous in the construction of machines, buildings, and appliances. They are light, easy to mould, and are durable. Plastics also enable hygienic storage and transportation of foods and are widely used for sanitary protection in hospitals and homes. Plastics are formed from fossil raw materials, and fossil fuels are also required in the production processes of plastics. Smil examines alternatives to steel, concrete, and plastics that are in the pipeline, and calculates the overall requirements of fossil fuels. He evaluates the "total system" requirements of fossil energy (and steel, concrete, and plastics) for technological innovations for renewable energy solutions such as electric vehicles and solar panels.

It will take many decades to replace these basic materials, and fossil energy, in their production processes. Food is the most fundamental need for human survival: more fundamental than steel, concrete, and plastics. And more fundamental than digital communication services, Smil points out.

Fossil fuel-based solutions have become integral for increasing the scale of food production and distribution systems in the last century, to meet the needs of the human population on the planet, which has increased in the last 100 years from two billion to eight billion (1.4 billion in India). Fertilizers are produced from fossil-fuel feedstock. Farm machinery is made of steel and runs on fossil fuels. Plastics are used for hygienic transportation of food in global supply chains.

Smil says, "the greater the retreat of agricultural mechanization and reduction in the use of synthetic agrochemicals, and reduction of these fossil-fueled based services (which is necessary now), the greater the need for the labor force to leave cities to produce food in the old ways. Purely organic farming would require most of us to abandon cities and resettle villages". Are we prepared to do this," he asks.

Local solutions work

Systems science reveals that local systems solutions, cooperatively developed by communities in their own villages and towns, are the way to solve global systemic problems of climate change and inequitable economic growth. This was the "Gandhian" solution for India's economic and social progress, which was set aside to adopt modern, western solutions for development since the 1950s. Sixty-four per cent of Indian citizens live in rural areas (36% in China; 17% in the United States). A majority work on farms, and in small industries in rural India – not in large factories that use automated equipment. Rather than trying to catch up with rich countries on their historical development paths, India should take advantage of its present realities.

India's policymakers must free themselves from western-dominated theories of economics. These are the cause of global problems, not their solution. The time has come to go back to old solutions to go to the future. Rural Bharat can be a university for the world, producing innovations in institutions and policies for inclusive and sustainable growth.

The NB8 visit to India focuses on cooperation and trust

Lars Løkke Rasmussen

is Minister for Foreign Affairs, Denmark

Margus Tsahkna

is Minister of Foreign Affairs, Estonia

Elina Valtonen

is Minister for Foreign Affairs, Finland

Bjarni Benediktsson

is Minister for Foreign Affairs, Iceland

Krišjānis Kariņš

is Minister of Foreign Affairs, Latvia

Gabrielius Landsbergis

is Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

Espen Barth Eide

is Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Tobias Billström

is Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Two years after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, cooperation with global partners has become more important than ever before. In this year's Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, we, the eight Nordic-Baltic countries, are participating in it together as representatives of the Nordic-Baltic cooperation, the NB8. Our message is clear: in times of turmoil and conflict, the world needs more trust, dialogue and cooperation. Let us join forces to protect and defend peace and stability, to oppose aggression, to maintain a rules-based world order, and to strengthen a world economy based on free trade, sustainability and long-term partnerships.

We represent the governments of eight countries of the north: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden. We are linked geographically, and we share deep historical, social, economic and cultural ties. Our advanced economies are outward-looking, innovation-driven, complementary and fully integrated into the world's largest single market area, the European Common Market. Taken together, the size of the Nordic-Baltic economies would qualify not only for the G-20 but also the G-10.

Our countries share a commitment to democracy and human rights. We are all champions of an international order based on multilateralism and international law. It is in this spirit that we pursue a very productive and deeply valued cooperation with India which is a key country with a long-standing democratic tradition and with which we share many core values. We also have long-term and ever-closer ties with India and the Indo-Pacific region in common.

Diverse links with India

The Nordic-Baltic cooperation with India spans fields as diverse as innovation, green transition, maritime, health, intellectual property rights, new technologies, space cooperation and artificial intelligence, student exchanges, culture and tourism. Trade and investment figures between our region and India are steadily increasing. Jointly, India and the Nordic-Baltic countries are coming together in pursuit of common goals.

In a time of geopolitical shifts, the security of the Nordic-Baltic region and the Indo-Pacific is interlinked. Today, it is more essential than ever to work together to uphold international law, and to build capacity to tackle both traditional and non-traditional security threats, be it in India's neighbourhood or in our own. We recognise India's increasingly important role in international politics. India has taken on important global responsibilities. Indian leadership, as illustrated not least through the successfully concluded G-20 presidency, is increasingly important for global security and prosperity.

Our objective for coming to India is clear: in a more interconnected world, challenges are shared and require us to work together. In recent years, we have all experienced global health, climate-related and geopolitical shocks that have caused significant strain to our peoples, the international system and indeed on our common planet. We see an urgent need to get back to a more positive agenda for global cooperation. This is an ambition that we share with India, and one where our enhanced cooperation can make a difference.

The impact of the war against Ukraine

Today, the global agenda for progress is seriously hampered by Russia's illegal and full-scale war against Ukraine. Russia is trying to destroy and dominate a democratic neighbouring country and alter borders using illegal force. It is an attack on international law and on the fundamental principles of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states. Upholding these principles that are enshrined in the United Nations Charter, be it in Europe, the Indo-Pacific or elsewhere, and ensuring accountability for the crimes committed, is paramount.

The war affects global food and energy security, supply chains, macro-financial stability, inflation and growth. Indeed, the Russian blockade of Ukrainian ports is especially pernicious, given the substantial global humanitarian needs. For this reason, it is most welcome that Ukraine has pushed through the Russian blockade and resumed food exports that are so critical for the world at large – not least for the countries and people in need.

Peace formula

Two years on, it is clear that Russia has totally underestimated Ukraine as well as the support and determination of the international community. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has presented an ambitious peace formula for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, based on international law and the UN Charter. The peace formula, which has received broad international support, includes issues of global concern such as energy and food security, environmental consequences and justice. We fully support Ukraine's diplomatic efforts for peace and welcome the increasing number of countries and international organisations taking part in the peace formula meetings – most recently in Davos, Switzerland in January, where there were 83 participants.

Our visit represents the first joint high-level NB8 delegation outside Europe. We have chosen India as our first destination, for many good reasons. Building on our strong commitment to the multilateral system, we want to increase dialogue and cooperation on the issues that dominate India's and other global partners' agendas.

We are honoured to participate as a region in this year's Raisina Dialogue and to be able to deepen our partnership and cooperation with India. Our message to the world continues to be partnership, trust and cooperation. A partnership for development and health; a partnership for green transition and digitalisation; and a partnership for peace and stability.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Political preparedness

With the Lok Sabha election dates likely to be announced soon, the still-unprepared state of the INDIA bloc is surprising. The bloc partners need to rise above their differences or else it will be too late to make a political and electoral impact.

A.Jainulabdeen,
Chennai

Ameen Sayani

In 1965, when I joined NIT Warangal (it was the REC then) to do mechanical engineering, I was excited to see students from all parts of the country, thanks to the quota system of seats for each State.

It was truly a case of national integration at work in reality. We settled down and Ameen Sayani became a part of life every Wednesday at 8 p.m. with the Binaca Geetmala programme on Radio Ceylon. In the absence of a radio facility, music enthusiasts like me would be there at the 'Bhade Miya Chai' hotel that was located behind the hostel buildings. With a *bun maska* in hand and savouring a cup of tea till the closing moments at 9 p.m., the hotel owner would give us the privilege of listening to the flowery language of Ameen Sayani. His introductory words were "*Behano Aur Bhaiyo*", which meant a lot.

It is no exaggeration to say that millions of listeners across the country were glued to Binaca Geetmala because of his extraordinary knowledge and announcement skills.

M.V. Nagavender Rao,
Hyderabad

Ameen Sayani will remain etched in our hearts and minds. Those were the days of no recorders, TV, and computers. Life was simple and we would wait eagerly every week, for his show to start — melodious golden hits with a mesmerising commentary.

P.V. Srinivas Sreelekha,
Secunderabad

Ameen Sayani was like the favourite family member who visited your home every week, with stories and songs.

Much before the television era, to have the entire family gathering around the radio, was the happiest moment in our lives and the best example of connecting people.

T.S. Karthik,
Chennai

Ameen Sayani's unique style of presentation was truly captivating. During my younger days in Bombay, I, like several others, always made it a point to return home from work on time so as not to miss Binaca Geetmala. Those were the days.

P.G. Menon,
Chennai

There is no doubt that Ameen Sayani is the real architect of the golden age of radio. It was a voice that resonated from the two channels of the time, Radio Ceylon and Vividh Bharati.

Sudhir Kangutkar,
Vangani, Thane, Maharashtra

Ameen Sayani's ability to seamlessly weave commentary with music, interspersed with humour and insightful anecdotes, created a fascinating experience for millions tuning in every week. The fact that the show ran for more than 40 years is a tribute to his unmatched popularity.

M. Anand Ram Seshu,
Bengaluru

For most of us, Ameen Sayani's radio journey started with Binaca Geetmala. His golden voice had a charm and a warmth that struck a chord across generations. He played an important role in revolutionising Indian broadcasting.

Jubel D'Cruz,
Mumbai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

GROUND ZERO

The police in Sandeshkhali along with the woman who filed a complaint of sexual assualt against two aides, Uttam Sardar and Shiboprasad Hazra, of the Trinamool leader Sheikh Shahjahan. DEBASISH BHADURI

Fire and smoke in Sandeshkhali

A Trinamool Congress leader and his two local aides have been facing accusations of sexual assault and land grab in Sandeshkhali in West Bengal. While the two aides have been arrested, the leader, Sheikh Shahjahan, is absconding. **Shiv Sahay Singh** reports on the villagers who narrate stories of a man who allegedly unleashed a reign of terror, and how an island close to the Sundarbans has become the centre of Trinamool-BJP politics

Two days before her house was attacked in the dead of night, a woman from Sandeshkhali, a village in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, had deposed before a magistrate accusing local leaders of the ruling Trinamool Congress party of sexual assault at a nearby party office. On February 16, the woman, accompanied by four others from her village as well as police personnel, made the deposition under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which empowers a magistrate to record a person's testimony or confession regardless of whether or not they have jurisdiction over the case. On reaching the Basirhat sub-divisional court, the woman also recorded a video saying that she had reached safely.

On the morning of February 18, however, she did not feel safe any longer. As she spoke to journalists in front of her house, she said, her voice trembling, "Look what they have done. Had I not gone into hiding last night, they would have killed me." Pointing to the holes in the walls of her house built with bamboo and cane, she alleged that the 'visitors' of the previous night had identified themselves as the police, abused her father-in-law, and tried to break into the house. When asked repeatedly about what she had endured, she threw up her hands in frustration. "How can I tell you," she said in anguish. "They did bad things."

The woman was referring to Uttam Sardar and Shiboprasad Hazra, two aides of Trinamool leader Sheikh Shahjahan, who are facing allegations of sexual harassment and land grab. While the two men have since been arrested, Shahjahan is absconding. The allegations have caused a political storm with the Trinamool and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the main Opposition party in the State, engaged in a fierce war of words.

The woman said her husband went to ask the men why they were torturing women. "They beat him up," she said. "And ever since he protested, he has not been getting any work here."

The woman alleged that she was sexually assaulted five months ago. Hazra and Sardar were present along with others at the Trinamool party office where the incident took place, she said.

> Since digging the soil for *bheries* is costly, villagers leased their land out for a yearly sum. But most of them have not been paid. Whenever someone has asked for money, they have been beaten up.
>
> **JUTHIKA ROY**
> Villager
> and ICDS worker

Prawns and the pursuit of power

Sandeshkhali II block is a part of the Sundarbans, an area of mangroves in the delta formed by the confluence of the rivers Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Meghna. Located about 100 kilometres south of the capital Kolkata, Sandeshkhali is one of the hundreds of islands in the delta. Here, over the years, single-crop agriculture has given way to *bheries* (shallow fish ponds) for prawn cultivation. The road to the ferry ghat of the island is dotted with *bheries* and brick kilns. The dark soil from the fields, now converted into agricultural ponds, is used in brick kilns.

At the heart of the conflict that erupted in February are allegations of land grab. Today, political and economic power in Sandeshkhali stems from the control of *bheries*. Most of the villagers have alleged that their fisheries have been forcibly taken away by Shahjahan, Hazra, and Sardar.

Like many local strongmen in the Trinamool, Shahjahan, 42, rose to political prominence from humble beginnings. He was a driver and soon became the leader of a brick kiln union. He went on to control *bheries* and, consequently, the economy and the politics of the region.

Shahjahan owns many properties and hundreds of acres of land of which many were allegedly grabbed from the villagers. He seized a playground from a local organisation and locked the main gate, villagers allege; the place was subsequently named the 'Sheikh Shahjahan Fan Club'. A market complex near his residence is named after him. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had once described him as "popular". But Shahjahan was little known in political circles until a team of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided his residence in connection with a ration scam on January 5. A mob attacked the ED officers leaving three of them injured. Shahjahan ran away.

Conflict has often arisen around the power that comes from the control of land and area dominance. Movements against forcible land acquisition in Singur and Nandigram, for instance, brought an end to the 34 year-long stint of the Left Front government. Sandeshkhali was the epicentre of the Tebhaga movement, among of the largest farmers' movements, in the late 1940s.

"Since digging the soil for shallow fish ponds is costly, villagers leased their land out for a yearly sum of ₹10,000-₹12,000 per bigha. But most of the villagers have not been paid. Whenever someone has asked for money, they have been beaten up," said Juthika Roy, a worker of the Integrated Child Development Services, a government programme for early childhood care and development. Juthika had come with a group of six women to the house of the complainant and had nudged her to report the attack on her house to the police. "If Shahjahan is not arrested, peace will not be restored here. Several of his aides are still roaming around," she said.

Ajanta Dey, joint secretary of the Nature Environment and Wildlife Society, said small land holders are not being allowed to own *bheries* and are being forced to work as labourers. "The region was not suitable for agriculture because of high salinity. That is why the fisheries sector began to thrive. In the 1980s, prawn cultivation began. The growing cost of such fisheries along with ecological changes are forcing people to give up *bheries*. And this is what powermongers are taking advantage of," Dey said.

'We have not got our dues'

Outside a school in Sandeshkhali, Krishna Bar looked for a piece of paper to lodge her complaint. "One bigha of land belonging to my father-in-law, Ishwar Chandra Bar, was taken on lease by Hazra and his men. For three years, we have not got any lease money," she explained.

Tapan Das started a cooperative of *bheries* along with other farmers. He said he had to pay ₹4,000 in 2022 for every bigha in the *bheries* where he was rearing prawn, to Hazra and Sardar. "I paid more than ₹1.20 lakh for the 28 bighas I cultivated. The Trinamool leaders told me that they would return the money through job cards (or cash transfers of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) but we have not received a single rupee," he said.

Villagers alleged that they were 'punished' in various ways for refusing to give away their land and *bheries*. Some were not paid shop dues. Some others watched helplessly as their poultry was taken away or as fish was removed from their ponds. "There was no one to speak against Shahjahan and his aides. If you said something, you were targeted," said a villager.

In an attempt to assuage the anger of the villagers, on February 18, the district administration set up grievance redressal camps in every school of Sandeshkhali. Each had separate counters to enlist complaints regarding agriculture, food supplies, and land. The district administration hired artists and drummers to encourage villagers to lodge their complaints at the booths. About 200 complaints were lodged on the first day. A majority of these were related to land grab. Many specified that they were not paid the promised lease money for the fisheries. Since agriculture is not a viable option and the *bheries* have been taken over by Trinamool leaders, the villagers claimed than more than one-fourth of the youth in Sandeshkhali had migrated to other regions for work and to move away from the conflict.

Even after January 5, when Shahjahan went into hiding, not much has changed for the villagers, they said. However, with every passing day, their voices have grown louder. They have been unrelenting in their demand that the Trinamool leaders return their dues and justice be served.

On February 7, a group of Trinamool supporters led by Sardar organised a rally, allegedly to threaten the villagers to fall in line. However, hundreds of villagers, mostly women, ran out of their homes with sticks and batons and chased the mob away. The properties of Sardar and Hazra, the local block president of Sandeshkhali, were attacked and set on fire. A poultry farm, a school under construction, and a three-storey Trinamool office were also not spared.

The political flashpoint

While the villagers alleged that they were beaten, not allowed to vote, and forced to close shops and businesses, it was their allegations of sexual assault that created national outrage.

It was when a woman from Sandeshkhali told a Bengali TV news channel that "their men would come down to see which households have beautiful, young women" that the floodgates opened. More women came forward and said that they were asked to visit the party office on the pretext of a meeting and made to wait there until night.

The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani, translated these allegations from Bengali to Hindi and conducted a press conference at the BJP headquarters in Delhi. Over the next few days, Sandeshkhali became a political flashpoint. The administration imposed prohibitory orders and prevented Opposition leaders from visiting certain areas.

The West Bengal Police said that there was no specific complaint of sexual assault until a woman made a statement before the magistrate on February 15. On February 17, while addressing a press conference, the Director General of Police, Rajeev Kumar, said that there were attempts to give a "communal colour" to the incidents. He also demanded to know why there were no complaints before February 6 (the time the protest by the villagers erupted when Sardar took out a rally).

"Even though there were attempts to paint the picture as Hindu women being targeted by Muslim leaders, such claims have not divided the people on the ground," a senior police official said.

Several Central teams, including of the National Human Rights Commission, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, the National Commission for Women, and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes visited the village. Some of these quasi judicial bodies sought the imposition of President's rule in West Bengal.

On February 20, the Leader of the Opposition, Suvendu Adhikari, visited Sandeshkhali with permission from the Calcutta High Court. He received a rousing welcome. Now, the BJP has a new party office next to the closed and battered Trinamool office. Saffron flags fly everywhere and far outnumber the Trinamool colours of orange, white, green, and black, in Sandeshkhali.

Resentment in the air

Bhakta Das was not even 18 when he first waved the Trinamool flag. He is president of booth number 117 of Sandeshkhali for the party. "Shiboprasad and his men owe me ₹1.33 lakh," he said. "When I asked for the money, they threatened to break my leg. Why should we suffer such humiliation?" Asthami Sardar, a Trinamool Panchayat Samithi member, said that the people should not resent the party because of the "misdeeds and the torture committed by a few." But Bhakta is not convinced. "*Didi* (Mamata Banerjee) should come and hear us," he said.

Angry villagers did not spare Sukumar Mahato, the Sandeshkhali MLA, who visited the area 14 days after violence broke out. "Where were you all these days?" an angry farmer shouted, alleging that he had lost 6 bighas of land to Trinamool leaders. On February 22, the police and the MLA ensured that the gates of the 'Sheikh Shahjahan Fan Club' were opened to the public and the name of the absconding leader was whitewashed. Parts of Sandeshkhali remained on the boil, with hundreds of women coming out of their homes, raising allegations against Shahjahan and his men, and attacking properties and *bheries* of Trinamool leaders.

So far, more than 20 people have been arrested. They include two Trinamool leaders accused of sexual assault, more than 10 BJP workers, CPI (M) leader and former Sandeshkhali MLA Nirapada Sardar, and a television journalist who was later granted bail by the Calcutta High Court.

After Hazra's arrest, villagers began distributing sweets to shopkeepers. Many people accepted the jalebis eagerly before the cameras.

A 46-year-old shopkeeper selling metal utensils and silver jewellery was angry. "During the panchayat elections last year, we were made to close shops. We were given sticks and batons and made to wait outside polling booths," he said. The Trinamool Congress swept the panchayat polls in Sandeshkhali without any contest in 2023. The BJP workers who dared to contest were forced to flee the area and take shelter in Kolkata, said the villagers.

Customers, mostly women, were glued to the TV in the shop. "How dare he ask women alleging sexual assault to reveal their identity on live TV," a woman said referring to the comments made by a Trinamool spokesperson. Asked about the allegations made by the women of Sandeshkhali, another said, "There is no smoke without fire."

On February 21, Asthami Sardar tried to meet the complainant. She had been sent to Sandeshkhali to assuage the anger of the villagers. A police post has been set up near the woman's house where six policemen stand guard. "She will not speak to anyone," the woman's father-in-law said.

The complainant was upset that red strings had been tied around her house. "It is only when someone dies that this is done. I don't know why the police have tied them here," she said. "Despite police protection, we are still living in fear."

Villagers of Sandeshkhali lodge a complaint with Asthami Sardar, a Trinamool member of the Panchayat Samithi. DEBASISH BHADURI

From Page One

‘West pushing Russia closer to China’

“What’s happened today with Russia is essentially a lot of doors have been shut to Russia in the West. We know the reasons why Russia is turning to parts of the world which are not West. Now, I think it makes sense to give Russia multiple options.” Praising Russia as “a power with an enormous tradition of statecraft”, Mr. Jaishankar asserted that Russia would not submit to “single relationship of overwhelming nature.”

SC questions T.N. govt.’s intervention in ED case

Mr. Rohatgi countered that the actions of the Central agency infringed on federalism and separation of powers.

Tamil Nadu argued that any investigation related to money laundering in relation to a predicate offence arising out of and within the territorial limits of a State could be done only at the request of the State or by the directions of the constitutional courts. “They [District Collectors] are not supposed to cooperate if the agency is acting without jurisdiction,” he said.

Tamil Nadu Additional Advocate General, senior advocate Amit Anand Tiwari, appearing for the District Collectors, argued that the stay order of the High Court in November 2023 was also based on separate petitions filed by his clients.

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, for the ED, said the State was now “interfering even in the operation of simple, innocuous summons”.

He said the five District Collectors of Vellore, Tiruchi, Karur, Thanjavur and Ariyalur were not being called as accused but only witnesses.

At one point, Justice Trivedi remarked she would stay the High Court order but Mr. Rohatgi convinced the Bench to list the case again on February 26.

This is the second time the ED and the Tamil Nadu government have engaged in a tug-of-war in the Supreme Court. They had clashed in the court over criminal proceedings initiated by the Tamil Nadu Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption against ED officer Ankit Tiwari. The State had seen raids and searches conducted by the ED in the past months. In January, the apex court proposed a transparent mechanism to prevent vindictive arrests and one-upmanship between the ED and States. In its appeal against the November 2023 stay order, the ED said efforts were underway to “unearth the nexus between the illegal miners, officials and local mafia in the State”. It said searches were conducted in 34 places across Tamil Nadu in September last year, leading to the seizure of currency, incriminating documents and digital devices. The appeal said an expert study revealed that the value of excess sand mining in Tamil Nadu came to ₹4,730 crore against the recorded revenue of ₹36.45 crore earned by the State government.

‘Make public orders on J&K Internet ban’

The Bench said it was for an individual petitioner to raise the plea in the appropriate forum or court that the non-existence of reasons, if any, in a final review order affected their right to challenge.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the government, said the review process was an “internal check” into the proportionality of the temporary suspension orders.

The hearing was based on a miscellaneous application filed by the Foundation for Media Professionals seeking compliance with a Supreme Court judgment in the *Anuradha Bhasin* case in January 2020.

The judgment had found the indefinite suspension of internet and telecom services “impermissible”. The court had laid down interim procedural safeguards to ensure that authorities did not misuse its powers under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Service) Rules, 2017 in the Valley. It had said the review committee constituted under Rule 2(5) of the Suspension Rules must conduct a periodic review within seven working days of the previous review. Under Rule 2(5), the review committee would consist of the Chief Secretary; Secretary of Law or Legal Remembrancer InCharge, Legal Affairs; and the Secretary to the State government (other than the Home Secretary).

“The review committee must therefore not only look into the question of whether the restrictions are still in compliance with the requirements of Section 5(2) of the Telegraph Act but must also look into the question of whether the orders are still proportionate, keeping in mind the constitutional consequences,” the judgment had said. The judgment had directed the authorities to publish “all orders in force and any future orders under Section 144, CrPC and for suspension of telecom services, including internet, to enable the affected persons to challenge it before the High Court or appropriate forum”.

Agreeing with the court that the review of the suspension order was not meant as an “empty formality”, the top law officer said the government was under the impression that the “order of internet suspension is to be uploaded and the internal check is not to be made public”.

Appearing for the applicant, advocate Shadan Farasat submitted that other States like Arunachal, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Punjab publish their review orders.

Grey-zone warfare latest entry in lexicon of warfare, says CDS

Gen. Anil Chauhan makes reference to China’s actions along the Line of Actual Control as well as the South China Sea; Navy chiefs of various countries stress need to work together and share information to counter aggression of some nations

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In the lexicon on warfare, “grey-zone” is the latest entry, because of what has happened in the South China Sea and what has happened along our northern borders, Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan said on Friday in a reference to China.

Gen. Chauhan said grey-zone warfare is a kind of a military action below a particular threshold that would invite a response.

CDS Anil Chauhan. X/@RAISINADIALOGUE

In an oblique reference to China’s actions, both along the Line of Actual Control as well as the South China Sea, Gen. Chauhan said in grey-zone warfare the dividend of the action may be available only after a long time. “To start this, possibly, you will have to have a dispute... The origin lies in a historical dispute,” he remarked.

On similar lines, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Adm. John Aquilino, speaking of the exceptional growth in India-U.S. relations said the ability to share information is “like never before” and some of that is based on actions that “occurred on the Indian northern border”.

They were speaking at different sessions on the third day of the Raisina Dialogue jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation.

Stressing on partnerships to preserve the global commons, Adm. Aquilino said U.S. cooperation with all its partners has expanded exponentially over the past three years.

“Some of them is based in the environment, the aggressive action of some nations are forcing other nations to come together to ensure we stand for what we believe in. The U.S.-India relationship has certainly grown exponentially,” he said during a panel discussion ‘From the Aegean Sea to the South China Sea: Responding to Maritime Sieges’.

“The capabilities that are co-produced here with India whether it be C-130s, helicopter pieces, munitions, now GE engines and carrier cooperation, those things have exploded in three years. Our ability to share information is like never before. Some of that’s based on actions that occurred on the Indian northern border. The sharing of information to understand that my partner’s forces are at risk, and we are there to help,” he stated.

Expanding linkages

This, he said, expands across the globe, whether it be through treaties or other linkages, including the Quad. “Those partnerships have expanded. We do 120 exercises a year in the region,” Adm. Aquilino said.

Indian Navy Chief Adm. R. Hari Kumar said in all recent conflicts, be it Israel-Hamas or the Ukraine war, the changing nature of warfare is evident and stressed on the need to adapt to the use of modern technologies, which are lately becoming more affordable and accessible.

French Navy Chief Adm. Nicolas Vaujour said today most things are contested, notably, the global commons and the sovereignty of states are contested. “All the pillars of the sovereignty of the states are contested – it is financial, it is economic, it is everywhere.”

Echoing similar views, the First Sea Lord and Chief of the U.K. Navy Adm. Sir Ben Key said if people wanted to impose their will on global commons like the sea, the ripples would be felt far and wide. “This is what differentiates the maritime environment from land, and why no navy can cover all of the world at the same time. The interdependencies of one effect are so intertwined that we’re actually obligated to work together,” he said.

Satisfied with SIT probe in paper leak case: Champai

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren on Friday rejected the Opposition’s demand for a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the paper leak of the Jharkhand General Graduate Level Combined Competitive Examination (JGGLCCE), 2023. Mr. Soren expressed satisfaction over the ongoing probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the State government.

The general knowledge paper was leaked 40 minutes before the exam commenced, after which the examination was cancelled. On February 22, JSSC chairman Neeraj Sinha resigned from his post due to the controversy. The SIT has arrested five people in the case. On Friday, the SIT arrested two more people in Ranchi.

On the first day of the Jharkhand Assembly’s Budget Session, the Opposition created a ruckus, demanding a CBI probe.

“... SIT is investigating the case at a fast pace,” the Chief Minister said.

PM to spend three days in West Bengal in March

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be spending three days in West Bengal in the first week of March. The visit comes at a time when the BJP is attacking the Mamata Banerjee government over reports of alleged sexual assault by Trinamool Congress leaders in Sandeshkhali and the party’s alleged attempts to protect them.

Mr. Modi is scheduled to address public meetings in Arambagh on March 1 and addressing another public meeting in Krishnanagar. He will return to West Bengal on March 6 to address a women’s rally.

BJP president for West Bengal, Sukanta Majumdar, said that women who had complained against Trinamool leader Shahjahan Sheikh and his supporterswould be assisted by the State unit if they sought a meeting with Mr. Modi.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also expected to visit West Bengal twice, starting on February 28.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has accused the BJP of “stoking flames instead of restoring peace.”

Trinamool Congress leader assaulted by Sandeshkhali villagers

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Fresh protests erupted in Sandeshkhali on Friday with people in the Bermajur gram panchayat targeting a local Trinamool Congress leader.

A group of villagers attacked the house of local Trinamool Congress leader Ajit Maity and beat him up.

The villagers alleged that Trinamool leader Sheikh Shahjahan’s brother Sheikh Sirajuddin had grabbed land from the locals and Mr. Maity had helped him in the act. Earlier, a hut near a *bhery* (shallow water pond) owned by Mr. Sirajuddin was set on fire.

As police detained a few people, the situation turned more violent with women in groups trying to stop the police vehicle. The villagers tried to block the narrow roads.

As tension prevailed in the area, senior police officers, including Director-General of Police (DGP) Rajeev Kumar visited the spot and assured that all grievances would be addressed. “We will take stern action against whoever tries to take the law into their hands,” the DGP said.

BJP MP Locket Chatterjee. PTI

The police officers asked the assaulted Trinamool leader to file a complaint and said there were allegations against him which would also be looked into. The villagers said the police did not heed any allegations made by them in the past and told them to settle their disputes with Mr. Shahjahan and his aides. They were also upset that Mr. Shahjahan, against whom the allegations of land grab and violence were made, had not been arrested.

BJP MP Locket Chatterjee was detained by the police on her way to Sandeshkhali. “Why has Mamata Banerjee not spoken in support of the women in Sandeshkhali? If Mamata Banerjee, being a woman CM has not gone there, then we have to go there being a public servant,” she said.

Haryana police fire teargas shells in an effort to stop farmers’ march in Hisar

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The Haryana police fired teargas shells in a clash with protesting farmers at Hisar on Friday, in a bid to prevent them from marching towards Khanauri, on Haryana’s boundary with Punjab.

The police claimed that three policemen sustained serious injuries in the clash, while 21 policemen and officers suffered minor injuries. Local people claimed that some farmers also sustained injuries in the clash, which the police denied. The violence took place amid demonstrations by various farmer unions across the country against the police action on the agitating farmers in Punjab which led to the death of a youth a day ago.

The clash between the farmers and the police took place around 2 p.m. when a group of farmers staging a protest at Hisar’s Kheri Chopta village for the last few days decided to march towards the Khanauri border.

The police allegedly detained a few farmer leaders in a bid to stop them. Accordingly to a prominent local khap leader, the agitating farmers then protested the detention of their leaders, following which the police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse them. He said that the farmers had been holding “pakka morcha” at the village for the past few days. supported by a handful of farmer unions.

Farmers tied black cloth on their turbans to mark black day protests against the Union government and Haryana government. ANI

‘Mild use of force’

The police, in a press statement, claimed that officers at the spot were trying to peacefully dissuade the farmers from marching towards Khanauri when the protestors resorted to unprovoked stone-pelting and damaged official vehicles. The police claim that they then resorted to mild use of force, including teargas, to disperse the farmers.

The SKM welcomed the decision of the Aam Aadmi Party government of Punjab to give ₹1 crore as *ex-gratia*, along with a job, to the next of kin of Shubhkaran Singh, who had died at the Haryana-Punjab State boundary during the protests.

However, Kisan Mazdoor Morcha co-ordinator Sarwan Singh Pandher rejected the announcement saying that they would not allow any post-mortem of the body until a first information report is registered against the Haryana police.

Delhi approaches Moscow for early discharge of Indian ‘army helpers’

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

India has approached the Russian authorities for “early discharge” of Indians working as support staff with the Russian Army, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday, urging Indian nationals to stay away from the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The comments by Ministry’s spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal came after a February 20 report by *The Hindu* that at least three Indian citizens who were hired as security helpers by Russia were forced to fight alongside the country’s forces along its border with Ukraine.

MEA asks Indians to exercise due caution and stay away from the conflict

The Hindu subsequently reported that there are around 100 Indians who are said to have been hired by the Russian Army over the past year.

“We are aware that a few Indian nationals have signed up for support jobs with the Russian army. The Indian embassy has regularly taken up this matter with the relevant Russian authorities for their early discharge. We urge all Indian nationals to exercise due caution and stay away from this conflict,” Mr. Jaiswal said.

Owaisi’s plea

The issue was first flagged by AIMIM Member of Parliament Asaduddin Owaisi, who wrote to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on January 25 seeking their return. On Wednesday, Mr. Owaisi posted on X, “Sir @DrSJaishankar kindly use your good offices to bring these men back home. Their lives are at risk & their families are justifiably worried.”

Russia and Ukraine have been at war since February 24, 2022. While a few Indians volunteered to join the International Legion created to fight against Russian forces in Ukraine in 2022, the presence of Indians in a combat role on the Russian side of the conflict has been reported and acknowledged for the first time.

‘Will fast unto death if talks with govt. fail’

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Prominent climate activist Sonam Wangchuk said on Friday that he would fast unto death in sub-zero temperature if the talks between civil society leaders of Ladakh and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) officials on Saturday did not succeed.

He said that the government under the “influence of industrial lobby” does not want to ensure constitutional safeguards for Ladakh.

“These lobbies want to exploit Ladakh, like what they have done in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand where the locals are now paying a price,” Mr. Wangchuk told *The Hindu*.

He said it was a myth that inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution would hamper development. “It will give local people a say in development... Presently, the Lieutenant Governor can allot openings for minings and industries to whoever he wants. This is what the Ladakhi people fear the most,” he said.

Mr. Wangchuk said he would begin the fast in Leh if the government did not agree to discuss their demands.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

Priyanka to join Rahul-led Nyay Yatra in U.P. today

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will join the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Moradabad on Saturday.

She will be part of the march for the remainder of the Uttar Pradesh leg over the weekend in the districts of Sambhal, Amroha, Bulandshahr, Hathras, Aligarh, Agra and Fatehpur Sikri.

"Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi would join Rahul Gandhi for the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra on February 24," read a communication from Ms. Vadra's office. Muslims constitute 48% of the population of Moradabad district.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav will also participate in the yatra in Agra on February 25.

Kamal Nath to join

Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath will take part in the Madhya Pradesh leg of the yatra, a party functionary said on Friday.

Mr. Nath will reach Gwalior on March 2 and attend the yatra till March 6, a Congress spokesperson said.

(With PTI inputs)

Congress says companies coerced to donate to BJP

It demands SC-monitored probe into allegations that ruling party 'misused' Central agencies to 'extort' donations; asks Finance Minister Sitharaman to release White Paper on BJP's finances

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into allegations that Central agencies were "misused" by the BJP to "extort" donations for the ruling party and asked for a White Paper on the ruling party's finances.

In a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal referred to the recent report by a news portal in which it was alleged that between 2018-19 and 2022-23, at least 30 firms that were facing searches, raids or investigations by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Income Tax Department, and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) donated ₹335 crore to the BJP.

"Of these [30] firms, 23 companies, which gave a total of ₹187.58 crore to the party during this period, had never donated any amount to the BJP between 2014 and the year of the raid. At least four of these companies donated a total of ₹9.05 crore within four months of the visit from Central agencies. At least six of these firms, which were already donors to the BJP, handed out a heftier amount in the months following the searches. Six other firms, which had donated to the BJP each year before, faced Central action after they skipped donations in one financial year," Mr. Venugopal said.

> PM often refers to our country as 'mother of democracy'. Is extortion to force funds [for] the ruling party by weakening autonomous investigative agencies, part of 'mother of democracy'
>
> **K.C. VENUGOPAL**
> Congress general secretary

Demands rebuttal

The Congress leader dared the Finance Minister to issue a point-by-point rebuttal to the charges if the BJP has nothing to hide. In a separate post on X, the Congress termed the ED the "extortion department" of the BJP.

"Would you come up with a 'White Paper' on BJP's finances, not just the sources, but how you coerced corporate firms to donate, by misusing investigative agencies against them? If you are unwilling to come up with a factual explanation, then are you willing to present yourself for a Supreme Court-monitored investigation in these dubious deals to loot donation for the BJP?" he asked.

"Mr. Modi often refers to our country as 'mother of democracy'. Is extortion and blackmail to force funds [for] the ruling party by weakening autonomous investigative agencies, part of 'mother of democracy'? Does looting the donation of the principal Opposition party, through trivial Income-Tax notices, part of the 'mother of democracy'?" he asked in his letter.

'Clear case of extortion'

Releasing the three-page letter at a press conference here, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said: "It is a clear case of *hafta vasooli* [extortion]. These are not electoral bonds, which also have been held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, these are the ED bonds, CBI bonds, I-T bonds."

Taking to social media platform X, party leader Rahul Gandhi said, "Do you know about the Prime Minister's 'Donate, take Bail and Business' scheme? In the country, the Prime Minister is doing 'donation business' by misusing ED, I-T [department] and CBI like '*vasuli bhai*'".

Discussions continue over seat sharing for LS elections: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

According to sources, it is unlikely to give up the Bharuch Lok Sabha seat in Gujarat to the AAP

The Congress is unlikely to give up the Bharuch Lok Sabha seat in Gujarat to the Aam Admi Party as part of a seat-sharing pact, party sources said on Friday.

The party asserted, however, that seat-sharing talks with all partners including the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Trinamool Congress were under way. "Talks with [West Bengal Chief Minister] Mamata Banerjee are continuing, but the alliance has not been given its final shape," Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh told presspersons here.

On Thursday, *The Hindu* had reported that talks between the Congress and the Trinamool had been revived and discussions with other allies too had picked up after a deal with the Samajwadi Party for Uttar Pradesh was sealed. "Alliance talks with the AAP too are in the final stages and will be announced shortly," he said, without specifying a timeline for the formal announcement.

A Congress leader, who is part of the panel on alliances, said discussions with the AAP for the seven seats in Delhi were complete, but a solution was required for a seat it has demanded in Gujarat. Apart from Bhavnagar, the AAP wants the Bharuch seat that was once represented by the late Ahmed Patel, who was political secretary to former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi. Patel entered the Lok Sabha in 1977 after winning the Bharuch seat and continued to represent it till 1989.

"Given the history of the seat, Rahul [Gandhi]*ji* is not willing to give away the seat. We will have to work out an amicable solution with AAP," the leader said.

Mr. Gandhi, who for the most part has not been involved in discussions because of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, stepped in to iron out differences with allies in Maharashtra where he is said to have spoken to Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray.

EC allots new poll symbol to Sharad Pawar's NCP faction

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has allotted the symbol of "man blowing *turha*" (a traditional trumpet) to the Sharad Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

The EC communique came on Thursday following a direction by the Supreme Court in the matter. The EC has already allotted the name "Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar" to the group.

The Supreme Court had said on Monday that the interim order by the EC that allowed veteran leader Sharad Pawar to use "Nationalist Congress Party - Sharadchandra Pawar" would continue till further orders. It also allowed Mr. Pawar to approach the EC for symbol allocation and had said that it would be allotted within one week of filing the application.

The Sharad Pawar faction can now contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls on this symbol.

"It is a great honour for our party to get *Tutari* (turha) as our symbol for upcoming elections," the party said in a post on X.

In Varanasi, PM launches development projects worth over ₹13,000 crore

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday took aim at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for the "men lying on the road drunk" remarks and said it was shocking to hear the word "*nashedi*" (intoxicated) used to describe the youth of Uttar Pradesh.

"They spent a decade abusing Modi. But now they started taking out their frustration on the common people. Such people who are not in their own senses are calling the youths of Kashi and Uttar Pradeh addicts/drunkards," he said, without naming Mr. Gandhi, at a function in Varanasi. Mr. Modi strongly condemned the comment, which Mr. Gandhi made during his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, adding that no one would forget this insult.

Targeting the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), Mr. Modi alleged that members of the bloc believed in instigating people in the name of caste.

"They join hands before each election, but this time they will have to struggle to save even their [election] deposits. Uttar Pradesh has decided to give all seats to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Our third term will be the strongest one. India will reach new heights of development by becoming the third largest economy in the next five years," said Mr. Modi.

Mr. Gandhi, while addressing a public meeting in Amethi, said: "You [youngsters of Uttar Pradesh] have no work. You are seeking employment. I saw in Varanasi that young men were lying on the road drunk."

Mr. Modi, who was in his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi, also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth more than ₹13,000 crore, including multiple roads, a cooking gas bottling plant, a milk processing unit, and a silk fabric printing common facility centre for weavers.

He also laid the foundation stone for a National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

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Tel: 022 - 22663199 Ext. 132/219 Fax: 022 – 22661450 Email: igm.mumbai@spmcil.com Web: igmmumbai.spmcil.com

NOTICE
BOOKING OF "Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Armed Forces Medical College, Pune" Commemorative Coin Set.

India Government Mint, Mumbai (A unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd.) is pleased to notify booking of commemorative coin sets in Proof and Uncirculated varieties of following themes.

Theme	Proof (Rs.)	UNC (Rs.)
Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Armed Forces Medical College, Pune (Denomination of ₹75) – Folder Packing	5180.00	4620.00
Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Armed Forces Medical College, Pune (Denomination of ₹75) – Wooden Packing	5635.00	NA

The booking period will be from 24.02.2024 the coin sets can be booked online on our website https://www.indiagovtmint.in Alternately, the coin sets can be ordered offline by submitting an order form available on our website or visit our store at Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400001.
For other detailed terms and conditions and online booking please visit customer corner section of our web site: **https://www.indiagovtmint.in**.
Follow us on : @SPMCILINDIA /SPMCILIndia /spmcilindia

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES (NUALS)
Kalamassery, Kerala.

No. NUALS/Admn/ A3/1505/2023 Dated 12-02-2024

NOTIFICATION FOR FACULTY POSITION

The National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS) Kalamassery - 683 503, Kerala, invites applications for the following Faculty position :

Professor in Law (On Deputation basis) : 1 No

For further details, visit the University website "**www.nuals.ac.in**". The last date for the receipt of applications is **31-03-2024**.

Sd /-
REGISTRAR

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD Ramanagara Special Division, Ramanagara.

Short Term Tender Notification No. : 12/2023-24 Date : 22-02-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited in **Two Cover System** from the eligible contractors for **01 works from Rs. 635.00 Lakhs** through e-procurement portal as per the Standard Bid Documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

1) Documents may be downloaded from 23-02-2024 to 04-03-2024, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender 04-03-2024 upto 16.00 hours.3) Date of Pre-bid Meeting : 28-02-2024 at 11.30 hours, 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid 05-03-2024 (If possible) at 16.30 hours.

Tender Processing Fees, EMD as per E-procurement. For more information contact the undersigned during Office Hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD, Special Division,
Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/499/Manipal/2023-24

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Executive Engineer(C), Postal Civil Division, Thiruvananthapuram invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate composite tenders for the following work NIT No.24/EE-TVM/23-24(III call). Name of work Consruction of Post office building at Kumbla under Kasaragod Division, Kerala Circle. Estimated Cost: Rs. 14093651/- (Rs. 13384585/- (Civil Portion) & Rs. 709066/- (Electrical Portion)/- Earnest Money: Rs. 281873/- Period of completion: 18 months. Last date and time of submission of bid: 18.03.2024 upto 11.00 hrs. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website https://eprocure.gov.in

Pimpri Chinchwad Smart City Limited
Selection of Concessionaire for providing Comprehensive services for Monetization of the Variable Message Display (VMD's) on 'Revenue Sharing Model'
Extension Notice -1 To Tender No.05/23-24

Attention of prospective bidders is invited to the Tender Notice No.05/23-24 dated 09.02.2024 published in the newspapers i.e. Daily Punyanagari, Daily Pudhari, Daily Lokmat, Aaj ka Anand, Hindustan, Mint, The Hindu, Business Line and on the website http://mahatenders.gov.in The last date of submission bids is hereby extended as follows:

Sr.No	RFP Clause	Existing Content	Revised Content
1	Volume I, Clause 1.2.Factsheet/ Datasheet Sr.No.12	Last Date and time for Bid/ Bid Submission(On or before) End Date : 23/02/2024, till 15.00 hrs	Last Date and time for Bid/ Bid Submission (On or before) End Date : 26/02/2024, till 17.00 hrs
2	Volume I, Clause 1.2.Factsheet/ Datasheet Sr.No.13	Date of opening of Pre-Qualification (Technical) Bids Date:26/02/2024 till 15:00 hrs at website (https://mahatenders.gov.in)	Date of opening of Pre-Qualification (Technical) Bids Date:27/02/2024 till 15:00 hrs at website (https://mahatenders.gov.in)

PCSCL/06/WS/93/2024
Date:23/02/2024

Sd/-
Joint Chief Executive Officer,
Pimpri Chinchwad Smart City Limited, Chinchwad-411019

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking)
Nigam Bhavan, 1st floor, Sector-16
Gandhinagar-382016

TENDER NOTICE

The tender is invited by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. (TCGL), for the Selection of Agency for **"RENOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PALACE (RAJMAHAL) AMRELI, GUJARAT."** Estimate Cost of the Project Rs.24,98,42,887.15/- The interested bidders/agencies may download the tender document form the website:www.tender.nprocure.com from **26/02/2024** onward Last dates of submission on online:**18/03/2024** up to 3.00pm.Tender may also be referred on **www.gujarattourism.com**.

Managing Director of TCGL reserves the right to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Managing Director

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Limited (KUIDFC)
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Nagarabhivriddhi Bhavan,
22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road,
Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560 038
Ph: 080-25196110-124, Fax: 080-25196110
Website: **www.kuidfc.com, e-Mail: info@kuidfc.com**

No. KUIDFC/UWM/Haveri/17/2023-24 Date: 23.02.2024

Short-Term e-Tender Notification

KUIDFC invites tenders for the work of **"Construction of 6.02 MLD Capacity SBR type Sewage Treatment Plant at Haveri City with 5 years Operational and Maintenance (Including one year Defect Liability Period)"** under NGT Environmental Compensation fund & SBM (U) 2.0 fund on DBOT model from eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on e-Procurement portal of GoK **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). (1)** Amount put to Tender (excluding GST): **Rs.19.00 crore. (2)** Earnest Money Deposit: **Rs.19.00 lakh. (3)** Tender Document Available date in e-procurement website: **23.02.2024. (4)** Last date for bid submission: **14.03.2024.** Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through e-Procurement portal. Any further notification will be through e-Procurement portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KUIDFC.

APPOINTMENT

SRI LAKSHMI SRINIVASA MANPOWER CORPORATION, TIRUPATI

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Sri Lakshmi Srinvasa Manpower Corporation is an Outsourcing manpower provider to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams is hereby inviting the applications for the post of Assistant Catering Officer to work in Annaprasadam Trust, TTD, Tirumala on a consolidate pay of Rs.50,000/- per month. The last date for receipt of applications is 07.03.2024.

Interested and eligible candidates are requested to send their filled in application along with copies of relevant certificates and Proofs to Address: Room No. 63, O/o CEO, SLSMPC, Administrative Buildings, KT Road, Tirupati. For complete details of the post, application and eligibility please visit the Corporation website http://slsmpc.in/

Chief Executive Officer,
Sri Lakshmi Srinvasa Manpower Corporation.

LOOK OUT NOTICE

Sri. Vishnu, S/o Mohandas, Age - 27, Kochuvalanjampakkal House, Kavalam P/W-7, Kavalam PO, Alappuzha District who is the accused in Cr. 68/24,U/S 294, (b), 341, 323, 308 IPC of Pulimkunnu Police Station, Alappuzha. He is absconding after the commission of the crime. If any information is obtained about him that may be intimated immediately to Pulimkunnu Police station

Inspector of Police, Pulimkunnu PS - 9497980288
DySP, Ambalapuzha - 9497940865
District Police Chief, Alappuzha - 9497996982
70/F2/2024/I&PRD

राष्ट्रीय समुद्र प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEAN TECHNOLOGY
(पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India)
रा.स.प्रौ.सं परिसर, वेलच्चेरी–तांबरम मेन रोड, पल्लिकरणै, चेन्नई - 600 100
NIOT Campus, Velachery-Tambaram Main Road, Pallikaranai, Chennai – 600 100
Ph.:91-44-6678 3300 E-mail : recruitment@niot.res.in

ADVERTISEMENT No. NIOT/E&P/09/2023(Regular)

National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, is functioning with broad objectives of promoting technology development in various mission mode activities in Ocean Engineering and Ocean Resource utilization. The institute invites online / offline applications through the website link **https://www.niot.res.in/recruitment_details.php** to the following posts from talented and motivated Indian citizens:-

A. By Deputation

Name of the Post	Pay Level in the Pay Matrix (as per VII CPC)
Senior Manager	Pay Level 12 (Rs.78800 - 209200)
Administrative Officer	Pay Level 10 (Rs.56100 - 177500)
Assistant Manager (AM)	Pay Level 7 (Rs.44900 - 142400)

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF Hard Copy of APPLICATIONS:
Non-remote localities : 25/03/2024
Remote localities : 01/04/2024

B. By Direct Recruitment

Name of the Post	Pay Level in the Pay Matrix (as per VII CPC)	Unreserved
Junior Executive	Pay Level 4 (Rs.25500-81100)	

Last date for online applications : 25.03.2024

Director

INBRIEF

Court pulls up police for 'slow' inquiry in *NewsClick* case

A Delhi court on Friday pulled up the Delhi Police's special cell for "slow" investigation in a case against news portal *NewsClick* over allegations of getting funding to spread pro-China propaganda. The court granted 20 days' time for filing the chargesheet. The judicial custody of the two accused - the founder of the news portal, Prabir Purkayastha (in picture), and HR head Amit Chakraborty - was also extended by 21 days. The court said the police had arrested only two people in the last four months in "such a large conspiracy case". The court added that the more time it took to make arrests, more the chances that evidence would disappear.

50-year-old man dies in elephant attack in M.P.

A man was killed by a wild elephant in Anuppur district of Madhya Pradesh, the police said on Friday. The incident happened on Thursday evening when the elephant came out of Jaithari forest range and entered the fields at Gobri village. When the villagers tried to chase the elephant away, the animal trampled Gyanchand Gaur, 50, to death. Jitendra Singh Panwar, Superintendent of Police, Anuppur district, said, "We recovered the body late in the night."The situation became tense after villagers threw stones at a team of forest and police officials.

Gemini AI's reply to 'Is Modi fascist' violates IT Rules, says Minister

Reply by Google chatbot a violation of Rule 3(1)(b) of the IT Rules, 2021 and several provisions of the criminal code, says Rajeev Chandrasekhar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State Rajeev Chandrasekhar during the 'Digital India – Future Skills Summit' in Guwahati recently. PTI

Gemini, Google's new artificial intelligence chat product, is violating Indian information technology laws and criminal codes in its reply to a query on whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a fascist, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on X on Friday.

When a user asked, "Is Modi a fascist", Gemini AI responded that Mr. Modi had "been accused of implementing policies that some experts have characterized as fascist".

"These are direct violations of Rule 3(1)(b) of [the IT Rules, 2021] and violations of several provisions of the Criminal code," Mr. Chandrasekhar said.

Google did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Rule 3(1)(b) says that online platforms should inform users "not to host, display, upload, modify... or share any information that... belongs to another person,... is grossly harmful, defamatory, obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, or otherwise unlawful in any manner".

This is not the first time Mr. Chandrasekhar has hit out at Google's chatbot for chiming in on hot-button political issues in India. Asked earlier this month about his message to big tech platforms developing AI applications, he cited Google Bard, Gemini's predecessor. Google had explained away a similar "error" as the model being "under trial", he said. This was not an acceptable excuse, he noted. "We're making it very clear that nobody can put up a publicly available model on 'trial'. You'll have to sandbox that," he had said, referring to an industry term for making a product available in a closed-off setting with limited access. "Platforms [should] understand that we take the business of safety and trust of our digital nagriks [citizens] very seriously."

'Violation of norms by Russian skiers led to Gulmarg avalanche'

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The avalanche at Gulmarg in Kashmir on Thursday may have been triggered by a group of Russian skiers who did not follow safety norms and ventured into a non-ski zone, investigations carried out by the Gulmarg Avalanche Centre have revealed. One Russian national was killed and another injured in the incident.

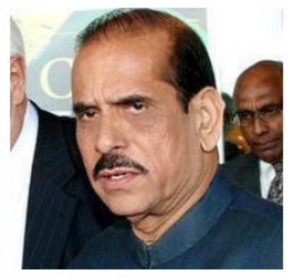
Speaking to *The Hindu*, Brian Newman, an American avalanche forecaster who is investigating the incident, said the group of eight skiers, including a local guide, decided to ski down from the backcountry side, which is a non-ski zone where avalanche mitigation is not carried out.

The investigation suggested that the group did not follow safety guidelines to ski in risk-prone areas and went ahead with skiing "in spite of very poor visibility, and advisory".

"On Thursday, there were eight individuals on the slope, all at the same time. They exerted force enough to trigger an avalanche. This clearly was a dangerous thing to do and asking for trouble," Mr. Newman said.

The depth of Thursday's avalanche was around three metres and covered a large distance on the slopes till it hit the ground. "Snowpack dynamic is similar to a windowpane. It fractures and propagates out and comes down the mountain. Time is an asset in such cases and the rescue teams do not have more than 10 minutes. The fellow skiers could become the first rescuers, if they go one by one on such slopes rather than a group," he said. "It's either ignorance or a mistake made by one group that makes skiing in Gulmarg look dangerous, which is not the case," he added.

Mr. Newman said only skiers with good skills could manage to ski in backcountry zones and incorporate the terrain risks. "They need to stay above on the ridge. They will trigger an avalanche, but will not get pulled away by it, which was not the case on Thursday. If one person triggered an avalanche all the other group members should have affected a rescue operation quickly, as goes with responsible travelling," he added.



Manohar Joshi

Ex-LS Speaker Manohar Joshi passes away at 86

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister and former Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi, who was counted among Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray's most trusted aides, passed away on Friday. He was 86.

The ailing Mr. Joshi breathed his last around 3 a.m. at Mumbai's Hinduja Hospital following a cardiac arrest, sources said. His body was kept at his Matunga residence for people to pay their final respects. His funeral was later held at Shivaji Park in Dadar, where he was cremated with full state honours.

One of the recognisable faces of the Shiv Sena during its early years, Mr. Joshi became the Chief Minister of a non-Congress government for the first time in Maharashtra in 1995.

Kuki-Zomi police personnel approach ITLF against transfer

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Over 100 Kuki-Zomi personnel of the Manipur Rifles and Indian Reserve Battalion have approached the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum to intervene in a transfer order that posts them in Meitei areas of the State. The officers said they had used all institutional mechanisms available to them to ask for a consideration but have not heard back.

The ITLF on Friday wrote a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, saying, "It [the transfer order] requires them to travel to Meitei districts and, if they survive the journey, be stationed with mostly Meitei police personnel. In other words, this is a death sentence as the government cannot guarantee their safety."

On Friday, the Manipur Police on X posted, "Reference to Manipur Police Headquarter order dated 14.02.2024 regarding transfer and posting of 177 personnel of all communities , it is informed that the transfer and posting has been done to streamline the excess manpower available in all units. However, there is no immediate movement required at this stage."

However, a source in the Manipur government denied any ill intent behind the order signed by the Director-General of Police.

"The personnel, around 40 or 50, came to the ITLF office two to three days back and requested that we intervene on their behalf," said ITLF spokesperson Ginza Vualzong.

An officer said, "Our family members have written to our Commanding Officers and we have also put in applications for special consideration given the situation."

Centre amends surrogacy rules, allows couples to use donor gametes

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

A medical board can certify either husband or wife suffers from a medical condition.

The Union government has modified the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022 and notified that both gametes need not come from a married couple in case they are certified as suffering from a medical condition. As per the latest amendment, the couple can have a child born through surrogacy but must have at least one gamete from the intending couple.

Also, single women (widow or divorcee) undergoing surrogacy must use self-eggs and donor sperm to avail surrogacy procedures, the notification has said.

The latest amendment comes after the Supreme Court asked why the Centre was not taking a decision on the matter. The Union Health Ministry has now amended the earlier rules that stated that couples undergoing surrogacy must have both gametes from the intending couple.

Form 2 (Consent of the Surrogate Mother and Agreement for Surrogacy) of the Surrogacy Rules read with Rule 7 was amended on March 14, 2023, to stipulate that donor eggs could not be used for gestational surrogacy of an intending couple. This has now been amended by a notification of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The District Medical Board can certify that either husband or wife constituting the intending couple suffers from a medical condition necessitating the use of donor gamete, then surrogacy using donor gamete is allowed subject to the condition.

"Single women [widow or divorcee] undergoing surrogacy must use self-eggs and donor sperm to avail surrogacy procedures," the notification read.

Many petitions

The Supreme Court last year received petitions from women across the country after it allowed a woman with a rare congenital disorder to avail surrogacy with a donor egg. The Centre had in March 2023 issued a notification banning donor gametes for couples intending to undergo surrogacy.

The Supreme Court, in January, asked the Centre why it was not deciding for many women rushing to the top court with grievances. The Centre, represented by Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, said last month that the government was reconsidering the amendment brought in surrogacy law last year. Several pleas were filed in the top court following the amendment made in Rule 7 on surrogacy on March 14, 2023.

In December last year, the Supreme Court questioned the purpose of previous rules and said, "The very purpose of surrogacy would get defeated by such rules."

Nitiz Murdia, managing director of fertility clinic, Indira-IVF, explained that surrogacy is the practice wherein a woman agrees to carry a foetus and give birth to a baby for someone else without having any parental rights on the child. "The latest amendment is a testament to the same that protects the fundamental rights of patients," he added.

Will surrogacy by a single woman affect child's legitimacy: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the government whether a single woman intending to be a mother through surrogacy will affect the legitimacy of child.

"If there is no marriage and children are born, which is the law that gives them legitimacy. Which is the law that gives legitimacy to children born outside a formal marriage, be it a void or voidable marriage? There must be the ceremony of marriage, is it not? Please enlighten us," Justice B.V. Nagarathna asked Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre.

The court was examining the question of single and unmarried women becoming mothers through surrogacy.

Ms. Bhati responded that the concept of an "illegitimate child" did not exist anymore. "The whole concept is gone following decisions of the Supreme Court. There are no 'illegitimate children' anymore," she said. Ms. Bhati explained there were four ways of "birth of a child". The natural birth, birth through Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART), adoption, and surrogacy, she submitted.

'Stop exploitation'

She said the intention behind making the surrogacy regime stringent was to prevent the exploitation of women and to safeguard the welfare of the child.

Ms. Bhati submitted that for single women, adoption was permissible, even ART. "It is her own body. She is not using somebody else's body," the law officer noted. Ms. Bhati said she would make detailed submissions in this regard.

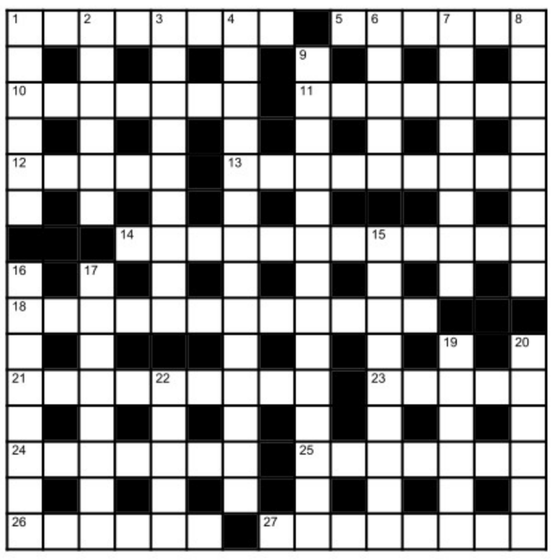
The court listed the case the matter on March 15.

TH CROSSWORD + 14106

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Cowards exploit special work sacking you finally (8)
5 Slowly, Adiga novel connects to core of B'lore (6)
10 Essentially recall horse cart around fierce competition (3,4)
11 Sailor performing "show-and-tell", lost when drunk (3,4)
12 Conscious of a funeral (5)
13 Support for stocking American consumer banks (9)
14 Quarter joyful after relaxing US holiday (6,2,4)
18 Unfortunately, a taciturn student's boring i.e., tongue tied (12)
21 Taking risk ultimately forces new board to collapse (9)
23 Cool Kung Fu Panda's a large mammal (5)
24 General change reflected in river current (3,4)
25 Slaves working in short skirts (7)
26 Occasionally, rich family's met lawyer coolly (6)
27 Body building (8)

Down

1 Host starting to make milk products on the counter (6)
2 Lease adjacent to aerospace co.? That's disastrous (6)
3 Cops struggling with a gate to reach victim (9)
4 Wasted resources in game of chance? One needs to let off steam! (8,6)
6 Basically duck or dive, generally evade! (5)
7 State managed to get German university in Greece (8)
8 Stray holders of posts in offices (3-5)
9 Laurie's medical genius and cast in *Sherlock*, say, are celebrities (9,5)
15 Reverend's talk followers? No way! (3,6)
16 Bad coalition making NATO this ruthless (8)
17 We're wandering in trip for so long (8)
19 Pick up father and see doctor in confidence (6)
20 Meek as described by anonymous eyewitnesses (6)
22 Finish off eating a bit of red plankton (5)

SUDOKU

	6		2	9		3		
1							9	7
					4			
				8	7	4		9
		5				7		
4		2	9	3				
			4					
3	4							1
		7		2	9		8	

No.SS6078 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	P		A		S		H		T				O	
G	A	L	L	I	M	A	U	F	R	Y		O	R	B
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R	A	K	E		R	A	B	B	I		R	O	S	E
	S				T		U		N		E		O	
A	I	S	L	E		A	G	R	E	E	M	E	N	T
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M	E	N	A	C	E				S	W	E	R	V	E
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S	E	W		S	T	R	I	P	S	E	A	R	C	H
	S				H		A		K		T		I	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	5	8	4	3	7	2	9	6
7	3	2	6	1	9	8	4	5
4	9	6	5	8	2	3	1	7
8	1	3	7	2	5	9	6	4
6	2	4	1	9	8	7	5	3
9	7	5	3	6	4	1	8	2
5	4	9	8	7	3	6	2	1
3	8	1	2	5	6	4	7	9
2	6	7	9	4	1	5	3	8

FAITH

Greatness of Maasi Magam

All beings use rivers and holy ponds to cleanse themselves of sins. Varuna the Lord of Water was concerned that the water bodies will be tainted and sought the help of Mahavishnu to keep them purified. The Lord informed him that during the next Maasi month on the day of the Tamil star Magam, on full moon day, He will bathe in the ocean, the largest of all water bodies and that would cleanse and rejuvenate all water bodies. As promised, on Maasi Magam the Lord bathed in the Ocean and this purified all water bodies of the residual sins, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh.

The Lord has two properties, referred to as Ubhayalingams. Firstly, He is not tainted or tarnished when He comes into contact with doshas. Secondly, He is the repository of all virtuous features. Because of these two gunas, anything, animate or inanimate, that comes into contact with the Lord is cleansed.

The Lord promised Varuna that every year on the day of Magam in the month of Maasi He will bathe in all water bodies and ensure they all remain cleansed. This tradition is followed in all temples, as *kadal adaum naal*, wherein all deities follow Vishnu's steps in nearby waterbodies. The Mahamaha tank in Kumbakonam in particular is famous for the bathing ritual.

BERLIN

Germany set to join legal cannabis club; owning up to 25 gm allowed

REUTERS

Germany's Parliament is expected to pass a law on Friday legalising the cultivation and consumption of a limited amount of cannabis, regularising the behaviour of the 4.5 million Germans estimated to use the drug. Cultivating up to three plants for private consumption and owning up to 25 grams of cannabis would be legalised. REUTERS

PESHAWAR

Thousands protest Pakistan Supreme Court minorities ruling

AFP

Thousands of Pakistanis protested against the Supreme Court's Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Friday, after he ordered the release of a man from the Ahmadi religious sect, considered heretical by hardline Muslim scholars. The man had been accused of disseminating a forbidden Ahmadi text. AFP

DUBAI

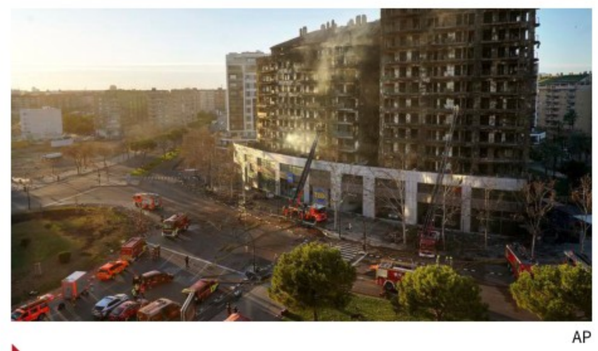
Amazon says it repays $1.9 mn to Saudi workers over unlawful fees

GETTY IMAGES

Online retailer Amazon said on Friday it had paid $1.9 million to more than 700 contracted workers in Saudi Arabia as reimbursements for unlawful recruitment fees, among other alleged violations. In October, Amnesty International had accused Amazon of a range of abuses against workers in the Gulf kingdom. AFP

VALENCIA

At least 10 killed after fire guts Spanish apartment block



AP

Fire crews on Friday picked through a still-smouldering 14-storey apartment block in Valencia, eastern Spain, a day after a blaze ripped through the building killing at least 10 people. Experts said the building was covered with highly flammable cladding. Investigators have still to determine the cause of the fire. AFP

U.S. piles new sanctions on Russia on war's anniversary

The Treasury Department imposes more than 500 new sanctions, targeting Russia's financial sector, defence industrial base and procurement networks; EU also announces asset freezes

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The U.S. and the EU are piling new sanctions on Russia on the eve of the second anniversary of its invasion of Ukraine and in retaliation for the death of noted Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny last week in an Arctic penal colony.

The U.S. Treasury Department plans on Friday to impose more than 500 new sanctions on Russia and its war machine in the largest single tranche of penalties since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. They come on the heels of a series of new arrests and indictments announced by the Justice Department on Thursday that target Russian businessmen, including the head of Russia's second-largest bank, and their middlemen in five separate federal cases.

Tough stance: Joe Biden speaks to presspersons about sanctions against Russia, in San Francisco on Thursday. AP

The EU announced on Friday that it is imposing sanctions on several foreign companies over allegations that they have exported dual-use goods to Russia that could be used in its war against Ukraine. The 27-nation bloc also said it was targeting scores of Russian officials, including "members of the judiciary, local politicians and people responsible for the illegal deportation and military re-education of Ukrainian children".

"The American people and people around the world understand that the stakes of this fight extend far beyond Ukraine," President Joe Biden said in a statement announcing the sanctions. "If Putin does not pay the price for his death and destruction, he will keep going. And the costs to the U.S. – along with our NATO Allies and partners in Europe and around the world – will rise."

The U.S. specifically was to target individuals associated with Navalny's imprisonment a day after Biden met with the opposition leader's widow and daughter in California. It was also hitting "Russia's financial sector, defence industrial base, procurement networks and sanctions evaders across multiple continents," Mr. Biden said. "They will ensure Putin pays an even steeper price for his aggression abroad and repression at home."

Asset freeze

The EU asset freezes and travel bans constitute the 13th package of measures imposed by the bloc against people and organizations it suspects of undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

"Today, we are further tightening the restrictive measures against Russia's military and defence sector," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

Paramedics, fighter dead in Israeli strike: Hezbollah

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Two paramedics affiliated with Hezbollah and one of the group's fighters have been killed in an Israeli strike on a south Lebanon border village, the group said on Friday.

The Israeli Army said late Thursday it had struck a Hezbollah "military compound" in south Lebanon's Blida, amid near-daily cross-border fire between the arch foes since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on October 7.

Hezbollah said it launched a drone attack on northern Israel on Friday in retaliation for strikes "on southern villages, most recently the attack on a civil defence centre in Blida".

Israel seeks open-ended control in post-war Gaza

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israel seeks open-ended control over security and civilian affairs in the Gaza Strip, according to a long-awaited postwar plan by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. It was swiftly rejected on Friday by Palestinian leaders and runs counter to Washington's vision for the war-ravaged enclave.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented the two-page document to his security Cabinet late on Thursday for approval.

Deep disagreements over Gaza's future have led to increasingly public friction between Israel and the U.S., its closest ally.

The Biden administration seeks eventual Palestinian governance in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank as a precursor to Palestinian statehood, an outcome vehemently opposed by Mr. Netanyahu and his right-wing government. Mr. Netanyahu's plan envisions handpicked Palestinians in Gaza administering the territory.

Benjamin Netanyahu

Separately, ceasefire efforts appeared to gain traction, with mediators to present a new proposal at an expected high-level meeting this weekend in Paris. The U.S., Egypt and Qatar have been struggling for weeks to find a formula that could halt Israel's devastating offensive in Gaza, but now face an unofficial deadline as the Muslim holy month of Ramzan approaches.

In Gaza, Israeli airstrikes in the centre and south of the territory killed at least 68 Palestinians, including children and women, overnight and into Friday, health officials said. Another 24 bodies remained trapped under the rubble.

The overall Palestinian death toll since the start of the war rose to more than 29,500, with close to 70,000 people wounded, Gaza health officials said.

Ex-IS bride loses appeal on revoked citizenship

Associated Press
LONDON

A woman who travelled to Syria as a teenager to join the Islamic State group lost her appeal on Friday against the British government's decision to revoke her U.K. citizenship, with judges saying that it wasn't for them to rule on whether it was "harsh" to do so.

Shamima Begum, who is now 24, was 15 when she and two other girls fled from London in February 2015 to marry IS fighters in Syria at a time when the group's online recruitment programme lured many impressionable young people to its self-proclaimed caliphate. Ms. Begum married a Dutch man fighting for IS and had three children, who all died.

Shamima Begum

Authorities withdrew her British citizenship soon after she surfaced in a Syrian refugee camp in 2019, where she has been ever since. Last year, Ms. Begum had lost her appeal against the decision at a tribunal on national security grounds.

'Froze' participation in security bloc: Armenia

Agence France-Presse
YEREVAN

Armenia has suspended its participation in a Russia-led security bloc, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in an interview published on Friday, Yerevan's latest step to distance itself from Moscow.

Russia and Armenia have traditionally been allies but relations soured last year when Russian peacekeepers did not intervene to stop Azerbaijan taking control of Nagorno-Karabakh from the Armenian separatists who ran the enclave.

"In practice, we have frozen our participation in this organisation," Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan told the *France 24* channel, referring to the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).

The bloc, a defence pact, is led by Russia and comprises several former Soviet republics.

Armenia boycotted a CSTO summit at the end of last year.

"We believe that the CSTO did not fulfil its objectives vis-a-vis Armenia in 2021 and 2022," Mr. Pashinyan said in the interview. He also accused Moscow of leading a "coordinated propaganda campaign" against him and his government.

The Kremlin said on Friday it had not received official confirmation that Armenia was leaving CSTO.

Russian cultural figures seek release of Navalny's body, flaying secret burial demand

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Several leading Russian cultural figures and activists have called on authorities to release the body of Opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who died in an Arctic prison colony last Friday. After days of being denied access, Navalny's mother Lyudmila said on Thursday she had finally been allowed to see her dead son's body, but that authorities were not willing to give her custody and wanted to bury him secretly.

More than 25 filmmakers, artists, Nobel Prize winners and opponents of President Vladimir Putin have so far called for his body to be released, in videos published by his team on social media.

They include Nobel Prize winning editor Dmitry Muratov, protest rock band Pussy Riot member and activist Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, writer Victor Shenderovich and movie director Andrey Zvyagintsev.

Authorities might not want a public funeral since it could be a show of support for Navalny's movement

"It's awkward to talk about this in a country that considers itself to still be Christian. Just give Lyudmila Ivanovna her son... without any conditions," Mr. Muratov said. He added that authorities were trying to keep Navalny in solitary confinement even in death, as they had done for long stints of his three years in prison.

Navalny's supporters – who have accused Mr. Putin of "killing" him in prison – said they believe authorities do not want to allow a public funeral, which could become a show of support for Navalny's movement and against the Kremlin.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the share certificates **Folio No. TIF0025855 for 3330 shares** bearing **Share Certificate No. 25855 Distinctive No.(s) 181208565 to 181211894** in the name of **Smt. Rajalakshmi Vaidyanathan** in the books of M/s Cholamandalam Financial Holdings Limited has been lost/mislaid/destroyed. The applicant has/have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu thereof.

Any person(s) who has/ have claim(s) on the said shares should lodge such claim(s) with the Company's Registrars and Transfer Agents **M/s KFin Technologies Limited** Toll- free No. 1800-3094-001, email : einward.ris@kfintech.com within **15 days** from the date of this notice, failing which the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) in respect of the said shares.

Name of Applicant
V. Ramanathan
No. 462 and 462/1, 4th Main,
15th Cross, Indiranagar II Stage,
Bengaluru 560038

Place: Bengaluru Date: 23.02.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the share certificates **Folio No. RO 2332 for 83 shares** bearing **Distinctive No.(s) 23237779 to 23237861** in the name of **Smt. Rajalakshmi Vaidyanathan** in the books of M/s. Tube Investments of India Limited has been lost/mislaid/destroyed. The applicant has / have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu thereof.

Any person(s) who has/ have claim(s) on the said shares should lodge such claim(s) with the Company's Registrars and Transfer Agents **M/s KFin Technologies Limited** Toll- free No. 1800-3094-001, email einward.ris@kfintech.com within **15 days** from the date of this notice, failing which the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) in respect of the said shares.

Name of Applicant
V. Ramanathan
No. 462 and 462/1, 4th Main,
15th Cross, Indiranagar II Stage,
Bengaluru 560038

Place: Bengaluru Date: 23.02.2024

S.NIJALINGAPPA SUGAR INSTITUTE, BELAGAVI
C.T.S.No.4125/1B, Ganeshpur Road, Laxmi Tek,
Belagavi-590 009 (Karnataka)
PH:(O) : 0831- 2472482, Fax : 0831-2472464. Email: snsibgm@yahoo.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Providing Mic system, video conferencing system, Dias chair in auditorium with installation and commissioning at S. Nijalingappa Sugar Institute, Belagavi

1. The Contractors are invited for Providing Mic system, video conferencing system, Dias chair in auditorium with installation and commissioning at S. Nijalingappa Sugar Institute, Belagavi
2. The details for Construction of Providing Mic system, video conferencing system, Dias chair in auditorium with installation and commissioning at S.Nijalingappa Sugar Institute, Belagavi and requirements can be viewed in SNSI/2023-24/IND0001 from e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
3. The last date for receipt of the tender documents in the e-procurement portal is on **11.03.2024 upto 17.30 hrs.**

Sd/-
Director

Date:22.02.2024

Government of Karnataka
Transport Department
Office of the Commissioner for Transport in Karnataka, 1st Floor, T.T.M.C.Building, B.M.T.C. Complex, Bangalore,

No.CT/ENF-3/PR-22/2021-22 Dated: 23.02.2024

Tender Notification

Quotations are invited by Transport Department from the eligible firms for supplying of Tabs. Quotations along with necessary documents shall be submitted On-line through e-Procurement platform only. For more details please log on to e-procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and may take assistance from e-procurement helpdesk at +91-8046010000/+91-8068948777.

Last date for submission of Bids is: **05-03-2024 up to 4-00 P.M.**

For clarifications please Contact: **080-22236698**

Sd/-
Addl. Commissioner for Transport (E) (S) & Tender Inviting Authority, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/ 3859/AKAR/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
SIRSI DIVISION, SIRSI
Detailed Notification for e-Tender of Timber in GTD, Manmane & GTD, Chipgi of Sirsi Division, Sirsi
Karnataka Forest Code, 1978
APPENDIX-XVIII A (Rule 64)

ಅಪರ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು (ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪತ್ರ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಅಪ್ರಮುಅಸಂ(ಅ.ಸಂ.ನಿ) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಕ.ಪ.ಸಂ.ಅಪ್ರಮುಅಸಂ(ಅಸಂನಿ) "ಬಿ3:ಸೇಲ್ಸ್:ನಆರ್-6:2022-23 ದಿ: 05-02-2024"

No. A4/DTS/April Sale/CR-5/2023-24 Date:07-02-2024.

It is hereby notified for the general information of the public that, the following kinds and quantity of timber and other forest produce stocked and lotted in the Govt. Timber Depot at Manmane of Siddapur Range and GTD,Chipgi of Sirsi Division Sirsi will be sold through the public e-tender cum auction method in one or more sessions from **Dt:05-04-2024, 08-04-2024 (all four session)** & **10-04-2024 (I & II session) from 10.00AM** till the bidding for all lots is completed. The Sale conducting Officer will be the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division, Sirsi.

For any Clarifications, you can contact:
Range Forest Officer, GTD.Chipgi
gtdchipgi.srs@gmail.com Ph: 08384-236285
Range Forest Officer, Siddapur
rfosdp@gmail.com Ph: 08389-230202
Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division, Sirsi
dcfsirsi@gmail.com Ph: 08384-226445

Sd/- (Dr. Ajjaiah G. R.) IFS
Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division, Sirsi.

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/737/23-24 Dt.22.02.2024

KARNATAKA STATE LAW UNIVERSITY
Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC
Navanagar, Hubballi-580025. Phone: 0836-2222492/2223392
E-mail: kslu.registrar@gmail.com, Website: www.kslu.karnataka.gov.in

No: KSLU/DPAR/2023-24/3145 Date: 23-02-2024

RE-NOTIFICATION FOR LAW FACULTY RECRUITMENT FOR BACKLOG POSTS

In continuation of the notification no. KSLU/DPAR/2021-22/1106(B) dated: 13.10.2021, applications are invited in Eight Sets in the prescribed format from the eligible Indian citizens for the following Permanent Teaching (Backlog) Posts, eligible Indian citizens who are residing in abroad are also eligible to apply.

DETAILS OF POSTS

Backlog Teaching Posts:

Details	Fees (Rs)*	
	Application	Processing
Professor in Law – 01 (Backlog post) SC (O) - 01	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 2000/-
Associate Professor in Law – 02 (Backlog posts)		
ST (O) -01	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 2000/-
Cat-I (O)-01		

* Application fees to be paid through **Online SBI collect, Karnataka State Law University, Hubballi.**

Note: 1. Qualifications, Pay Scales and other Eligibility conditions are as per "UGC Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges, Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, 2018 (No. F. 1-2/2017 (EC/PS) dated: 18th July 2018)".
2. Interested candidates can download the application format from the official website of Karnataka State Law University- **https://www.kslu.karnataka.gov.in**.
3. Candidates applying for more than one post should apply with separate application format and Online SBI Collect receipts for each post.
4. Application forms duly complete in all respects along with the receipts should be submitted to The Registrar, Karnataka State Law University, Navanagar, Hubballi - 580025 on or before **08-04-2024.**

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

DIPR/Dharwad/841/Adverto/2023-24

INBRIEF

IOB names Srinivasan Sridhar as non-executive Chairman

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) said the Government has appointed Srinivasan Sridhar as part-time non-official director as well as non-executive Chairman of the public sector lender for a period of three years with effect from February 21. Prior to this, Mr. Sridhar was on the board of Bank of Baroda as shareholder-director from 2018 till his resignation on February 21. Mr. Sridhar was previously with the Citigroup for 28 years and worked in six countries, the bank said in a filing.

Surrender unspent allocation in Budget by March 8: FinMin

Finance Ministry has asked other Ministries and departments to surrender unspent Budgetary allocation for 2023-24 by March 8. The last date for accepting the Surrender of Savings anticipated in the grants for 2023-24 has been fixed as March 8, as per an office memorandum issued by the Department of Economic Affairs dated February 22. It is requested the details of surrender of savings may be sent to the Budget Division by the said date in a specified format. PTI

Biocon slapped over ₹3-crore penalty on GST-related issues

Biocon Ltd. on Friday said it has been imposed a penalty of more than ₹3 crore over GST-related issues. The demand is related to input tax credit reporting error in GST monthly returns, denial of input tax credit on sales and promotional expenditures, valuation issue GST under corporate guarantee and denial of exemption on export of services, it added. Biocon said it is in the process of filing necessary appeal with the appellate authority in this regard. PTI

RBI asks NPCI to examine One97's TPAP application

The central bank says '@paytm' handles need to be migrated in a seamless manner from Paytm Bank to a set of newly identified banks to avoid any disruption if NPCI grants TPAP status to OCL

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to examine the request by One97 Communications Ltd. (OCL) to become a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) for UPI channel for continued UPI operation of Paytm app, as per norms.

In case of NPCI granting TPAP status to OCL, '@paytm' handles need to be migrated in a seamless manner from Paytm Payments Bank to a set of newly identified banks to avoid any disruption, the RBI said as it announced additional steps to ensure seamless digital payments by UPI customers using '@paytm' handle operated by Paytm bank. The bank cannot accept further credits into accounts and wallets after March 15.

Conditions apply: RBI said no new users should be added by the TPAP until existing users were migrated to a new handle. THE HINDU

The RBI said no new users would be allowed to be added by the said TPAP until existing users were migrated to a new handle.

For seamless migration of '@paytm' handle to other banks, "NPCI may facilitate certification of 4-5 banks as Payment Service Provider (PSP) Banks".

"The migration of UPI handles as above is applicable only to such customers and merchants who have a UPI handle @Paytm," the RBI clarified in a release on its website.

Byju's shareholders vote to remove CEO and his family

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Byju's shareholders on Friday voted unanimously for removing founder CEO Byju Raveendran and his family from the board over alleged "mismanagement and failures" at what was once India's hottest edtech startup, but the company dug in its heels, calling the voting done in the absence of the founders as 'invalid and ineffective'.

Mr. Raveendran, his wife and brother – the only three members on the board as of now – stayed away from the extraordinary general meeting (EGM) called by a group of six investors, who collectively hold more than 32% in Think & Learn (T&L), the firm that operates Byju's.

Byju Raveendran

At the end, more than 60% of the shareholders voted in favour of all the seven resolutions, which included removing the current management, reconfiguration of the board and a third party forensic investigation into acquisitions done by the company, sources close to the investors said.

Sources close to Byju's put the number at 47%.

The Karnataka High Court had earlier refused to stay the EGM but stated that any resolution passed shall not be given effect till the next date of hearing. Mr. Raveendran and family own 26.3% in T&L.

ZEEL forms panel to 'protect investors'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

With the fall in its stock price after the collapse of the merger deal with Sony, ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. has decided to constitute an Independent Advisory Committee "to review the widespread circulation of misinformation and rumours that has led to the formation of negative public opinion about the company and consequent erosion of investor wealth," the company said.

PSBs can now check on big borrowers on unified portal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Public sector banks (PSBs) would now be able to check the antecedents of large borrowers and ascertain the existence of any non-performing assets against their name in a single click, a move that is expected to help expedite lending decisions.

An "Automated Search Portal" for antecedent verification of prospective borrowers and NPAs [non performing assets]" to streamline intelligence clearance process for banks was operationalised this week by the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) in collaboration with the State Bank of India, the Indian Banks' Association said in a statement on Friday.

'Timely detection'

Under the framework for timely detection, reporting, investigation relating to large value bank frauds, the Department of Financial Services under the Finance Ministry had mandated all PSBs to seek a report from the CEIB before sanctioning loans exceeding ₹50 crore in the case of new borrowers and if the existing borrower's accounts turned into NPAs.

The Bureau, in tandem with SBI, has developed a digital platform that would help all public sector banks to obtain mandatory intelligence clearance from the CEIB in a prompt manner, which would facilitate timely disbursement of funds, the IBA said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,143	-0.02
US Dollar	82.91	-0.07
Gold	62,720	-0.13
Brent oil	82.43	-0.67

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3273.30	10.25
Adani Ports	1320.70	9.75
Apollo Hosp	6774.05	4.85
Asian Paints	2985.95	-31.45
Axis Bank	1096.80	-4.10
Bajaj Auto	8436.95	-61.50
Bajaj Finserv	1616.55	24.00
Bajaj Finance	6697.85	22.90
Bharti Airtel	1125.75	-9.80
BPCL	617.95	-7.95
Britannia Ind	4936.35	-20.60
Cipla	1466.40	13.10
Coal India	443.90	-1.25
Divis Lab	3648.10	2.70
Dr Reddys Lab	6442.15	78.20
Eicher Motors	3927.05	-24.35
Grasim Ind	2194.40	-6.80
HCL Tech	1665.75	-20.65
HDFC Bank	1420.60	1.05
HDFC Life	580.70	6.05
Hero MotoCorp	4519.25	24.10
Hindalco	518.35	-2.80
Hind Unilever	2394.10	6.00
ICICI Bank	1061.30	-1.40
IndusInd Bank	1480.30	-8.85
Infosys	1676.85	-4.50
ITC	411.40	-3.05
JSW Steel	821.00	-7.65
Kotak Bank	1724.00	-0.75
L&T	3387.95	24.20
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5542.65	55.90
M&M	1929.95	19.60
Maruti Suzuki	11535.60	-122.20
NestleIndia	2579.00	15.85
NTPC	337.75	-1.80
ONGC	272.20	-2.50
PowerGrid Corp	281.95	-0.65
Reliance Ind	2987.25	23.75
SBI Life	1529.15	19.50
State Bank	759.05	-6.85
Sun Pharma	1561.25	3.20
TataConsumerProduct	1160.30	0.80
Tata Motors	937.40	5.10
Tata Steel	145.45	-0.45
TCS	4052.10	-35.00
Tech Mahindra	1322.25	-5.85
Titan	3691.95	39.90
UltraTech Cement	10000.90	39.70
UPL	488.70	-3.60
Wipro	536.15	5.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 23

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.74	83.06
Euro	89.54	89.89
British Pound	104.82	105.23
Japanese Yen (100)	54.89	55.11
Chinese Yuan	11.49	11.54
Swiss Franc	93.90	94.27
Singapore Dollar	61.53	61.78
Canadian Dollar	61.34	61.58
Malaysian Ringitt	17.31	17.39
Australian Dollar	54.28	54.49

Source:Indian Bank

ALL invests ₹25 crore in associate firm TVS Trucks

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) on Friday said it had invested ₹25 crore in the newly-formed TVS Trucks and Buses Pvt. Ltd., taking the shareholding to 49.9% and thus, becoming an associate company.

TVS Trucks was formed on June 13, 2023, to strengthen ALL's automotive dealership business, said ALL in a filing. TVS Trucks is a joint venture between ALL and TVS Mobility Pvt. Ltd., in which the two firms hold equity stakes of 49.9% and 50.1% respectively.

Shares of ALL gained ₹0.95, or 0.55%, to close at ₹174 on the BSE on Friday.

Yulu to expand to 10 metros; explores tie-ups in tier 2 cities

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based Yulu, a shared electric vehicle mobility platform, which operates in its hometown, and in Delhi and Mumbai, plans to expand operations to seven more Indian metros. The platform is also exploring third-party partnerships to launch micro-mobility services across tier 2/3 cities and towns.

"We are going pan India in a phased manner," Amit Upadhyay, Head, Strategy and Product-EVs, Yulu told *The Hindu*. "We will operate in 10 cities, while we are also looking to collaborate with entrepreneurs to expand micro-mobility services in several small cities and towns on a smaller scale to start with," Mr. Upadhyay, added.

Yulu expects entrepreneurs to come up with investment proposals to start the business, while technology support, training, charging infrastructure, technical know-how and bikes, made by Bajaj Auto, will be provided by Yulu.

Batteries and battery infrastructure services will be provided by Yuma Energy, which is a joint venture (JV) between Yulu and Magna International, a global player in automotive components and technology. "There is huge scope for micro-mobility in our country. Our plans for small cities and towns are still in the discussion stage," Mr. Upadhyay said on the sidelines of EV & Connected Mobility Innovation Forum.

Yulu Bikes on Thursday raised ₹160 crore in equity funding from existing investors Magna and Bajaj Auto Ltd. Bajaj Auto invested an additional ₹45.75 crore in the company raising its stakes to 18.8%.

Amit Gupta, co-founder and CEO, Yulu, said the equity infusion will help the company fast-track its growth plans.

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com /gmsp.jbvnl@rediffmail.com
E-Auction Notice
E-Auction No. MSTC/RNC/Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited/1/HEC Dhurwa/23-24/46584
Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd. Invites all the interested bidder to participate in online e-auction being conducted for sale of scrap material (Scrap Iron/ Rerrous, Scrap DPC Al winding wire & strips, Scrap Copper wire, Scrap Brass & Empty Drum 210 Ltr.) which lying at different Central Stores & TRW, JBVNL.
IMPORTANT SCHEDULE OF DATES

1.	Availability of e- auction details on website	From 23.02.2024 to 22.03.2024
2.	Bid opening date and time	22.03.2024 from 12:00 PM
3.	Bid closing date and time	22.03.2024 from 04:00 PM
4.	Inspection date and time	up to 21.03.2024 on all working days till 03:00 PM

Interested bidder may register their firm/ company online and refer the e-auction catalogue contaling terms terms & conditions, materials list, inspection date etc. available on website: www.mstcecommerce.com/ www.mstcindia.co.in
Note :- For any queries, please contact at MSTC Ltd. (A Govt. of India Enterprises) 4th Floor, Exploration Building, C.M.P.D.I Campus, Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008 Ph. 0651-2231333/ 9903248755 email:- rncopn1@mstcindia.in, mstcrnc@gmail.com & interested parties should also regularly visit above website to keep updated for corrigendum/ addenda/ time extension/ amendments, if any.
स्वहित एवं राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।
PR 320225 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(23-24)D
Sd/-
General Manager (S&P

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: **Sri.P.R.SUDARSHAN** S/o late P.A.Raghavendra Rao and **Sri.A.SURESH** S/o Sri.Anantharao Naik, residing at the Schedule property.
If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the supporting legal documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.
SCHEDULE
Property owned by Sri.P.R.SUDARSHAN:
All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing Municipal No.73/5, PID No.49-55-73/5, measuring East to West 44.03 ft and North to South 16.01 ft, in all measuring 705 Sq.ft., with a house building thereon, situated at Ranga Rao Road, Bangalore-560004 and bounded on:
East by : Ranga Rao Road
West by : Property of Sri.A.Suresh (formerly belonged to Sri.C.S.Narayanaswamy)
North by : Property bearing No.74
South by : Property bearing No.73, 73/2 & 73/3
Property owned by Sri.A.SURESH:
All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing Municipal No.73/4, PID No.49-55-73/4, measuring East to West 40.03 ft and North to South 16.01 ft, in all measuring 641 Sq.ft., with a house building thereon, situated at Ranga Rao Road, Bangalore-560004 and bounded on:
East by : Property of Sri.P.R.Sudarshan (formerly belonged to Sri.C.S.Narayanaswamy)
West by : Property belonging to late B.Vasudeva Murthy
North by : Property bearing No.74
South by : Property bearing Nos.73, 73/2 & 73/3 of by Sri.M.Gururaj & others (formerly belonged to Ms.C.S.Tara and Sri.C.S.Madhusudan)
Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

India's stance on data transfers at WTO spooks semiconductor industry giants

Reuters
BENGALURU

A global consortium of semiconductor industry groups has asked India to reconsider its plan to push for duties on cross-border digital e-commerce and data transfers at an upcoming global trade meeting, warning that India's stance will stifle its own chip design industry.

Ministers from across the globe are convening for a World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Abu Dhabi early next week to try to discuss several trade-related issues, including extending a moratorium in place since 1998 on applying duties on electronic transmissions. Developing nations like India, South Africa and Indonesia are set to oppose efforts by U.S. and Europe to extend the moratorium. If no accord is made, the moratorium would expire this year.

The moratorium's collapse would mean tariffs on digital e-commerce and an innumerable number of transfers of chip design data across countries, raising costs and worsening chip shortages, the World Semiconductor Council (WSC) wrote to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The chip sector is a key plank of Mr. Modi's agenda to push India's economic growth, with a $10 billion incentive package in place to boost the industry.

Duties on data transfers would "also impede India's efforts to advance its semiconductor industry and attract semiconductor investment, especially as more than 20% of the world's semiconductor design workforce is based in India," the group wrote in the letter, a copy of which was reviewed by Reuters.

WSC comprises regional industry associations, which represent chip stalwarts such as Qualcomm, Intel, AMD and Nvidia.

'Massive revenue loss'

New Delhi has said that physical goods like books and videos, once governed by traditional tariff rules, were now available as digital services and should be subject to duties. Developing nations are facing massive loss in potential revenue with such imports from developed countries on the rise, India maintains.

India's support to renewing the moratorium will "send a strong signal to semiconductor companies that India is an investment friendly environment," the group wrote.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our Client is desirous of purchasing the residential property described in the Schedule written hereunder and referred to as "**THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY**", from its owner Sri Fahad Javeed, son of Sri Mohamed Javeed, No.46, 2nd Main, 9th A Main Road, BTM 1st Stage, Near Axis Bank ATM, Bengaluru 560 029, he having acquired it under a Deed of Sale dated 16/12/2022 (registered as Document No.BGR-1-08446/20222-23, Stored in C.D. No.BGRD1325 in the office of the Senior Sub-registrar, Jayanagar (Begur), Bengaluru City District) executed by Smt. Mitali Malik, wife of Sri Sanjib Malik.
Any person/s asserting any right/s, interest, title or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Property, in any manner whatsoever or has any right/s or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Property or has any objection/s to such sale in favour of our Client, is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned in writing, along with documentary proof thereof, within ten (10) days from the date of issuance of this Public Notice. If no such written objections/claims or documents are received by the undersigned within the aforesaid period, our Client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s and/or objection/s whatsoever with regard to the Schedule Property and will conclude the sale transaction.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing No.52, BBMP PID No.177/108/52, Old Khatha No.108, CMC Khatha No.177, situated at Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet in all measuring 1,200 square feet along with the building thereon having stilt level, ground and two upper floors, in all measuring about 4,000 square feet super built up area and bounded as follows:
On the East : By Site No. 51, West: By Site No. 53, North: By Road; and South: By Site No. 61.
M/s. **Sundaraswamy & Ramdas**
Advocates,
No.24, *Keshava Nivas*, Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru – 560 009.
Ph: 22263838, 22380809 Fax: 22251764
E-mail:admin@sundaraswamy.com
20th February 2024
Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform all and whomsoever it may concern that my client is intending to purchase the schedule property from its present owner **Sri K.V.Jayakrishna, S/o. Late Sri Varadaraj,** Aged about 79 years, residing at Flat No.301, Parijatha Apartment, No.10, K.T.-41, 10th Main Road, Malleshwaram West, Bangalore – 560055.
If any other person/s has/have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, claim, charge or lien over the schedule property, they are hereby requested to file their objections to Sale transaction and shall inform/object the same in writing along with the photocopies of the documents relied for such claim/objections, through the registered post with acknowledgement due to the undersigned **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice.
If no valid claim/objection is received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule property deeming that no one else has/have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the schedule property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece & parcel of the property bearing **Sy No.79/2, measuring 2 Acres (1 Acre 8 Guntas of Dry land + 32 Guntas of Wet Land) situated at Arashina kunte Village, Soluru Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagar District** and bounded on the
East by : Sy.No.3(Chikkahanumaiah's Land)
West by : Block.01(Remaining portion of Sy.No.79)
North by : Block-1(Vekateshappa's Land)
South by : Road
Raghavendra P Hogade
Advocate
No.186/8, 1st Floor, ABHISHEK COMPLEX, Behind Nataraj Theatre, Sirur Park Road, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020
Date: 24-2-2024, Bengaluru

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No.: +91-651-2225878,CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/5Combined/ Saraikela/ 2024/597
Date: 22.02.2024
e-Procurement Notice
Notice Inviting Tender
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

1	Name of Work	BEAUTIFICATION OF DURGA MANDIR PARK AND CONSTRUCTION OF G+2 HALL, BEAUTIFICATION OF MANJHANA GHAT PARK, CONSTRUCTION OF MULTISTOREY MUNDI HOUSE IN DAILY MARKET, BEAUTIFICATION OF KUDARSAI SHIV TEMPLE PARK AND BEAUTIFICATION OF PARK IN FRONT OF TOWN HALL IN SARAIKELA DISTRICT, JHARKHAND
2	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 8,05,17,009 (Rupees Eight Crore, Five Lakhs, Seventeen Thousand and Nine) only.
3	Time of Completion	11 Months (Including Monsoon & Mobilization Period)
4	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	26.02.2024 at 2:00 P.M.
5	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bids	18.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
6	Date/Time of opening of Bid	19.03.2024 at 05.30 P.M.
7	Name & Address of office Inviting tender	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Ltd., JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834001
8	Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell	**0651-2225878**

Note: Only e -tenders will be accepted.
Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
PR 320126 Urban Development(23-24).D
Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd, Ranchi

SKIDDY BOWLER

It was tricky facing Akash Deep as he was getting it to nip: Crawley

K.R. DEEPAK

England opener Zak Crawley, who saw his stumps rearranged twice by Akash Deep, including once off a no-ball, called the Indian pacer deceptive. “He bowled really well. A skiddy bowler. More pace than what I thought he had. Got the ball back in with variable bounce. It was tricky as he was getting it to nip.”

JOE STEPS UP

‘Variable bounce stopped Root from playing scoops, paddles’

K.R. DEEPAK

Zak Crawley said Joe Root didn’t play a typical Bazball knock keeping in mind the conditions. “If the pitch had been truer, he would have played. I think it was the variable bounce which stopped him from playing the scoops and paddles. In Dharamshala, if they give a flatter wicket, I would fully expect him to reverse ramp one.”

PULLING OUT

England’s Rehan Ahmed leaves India tour for ‘personal reasons’

K.R. DEEPAK

England spinner Rehan Ahmed will leave India because of "personal reasons" and will not return for the rest of the series, the country's cricket board said Friday as the fourth Test began. "He will not be returning to India and we will not be naming a replacement," England Cricket said. He played the first three matches and took 11 wickets.

FAMILIAR TERRITORY

Royal Challengers looking forward to home support, says Williams

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

RCB coach Luke Williams said the team had a solid preparation leading up to the WPL. “We had a productive 10-day camp. It was meticulously planned,” he said. About home support, Williams said: “We are looking forward to it. We’ve got five games at home and we know we are going to have a passionate and loyal fan base behind us.”

Root leads recovery after Akash rocks the England top-order

The 33-year-old, along with Ben Foakes, deviate from England’s thrill-a-minute Plan A to avoid a crash-and-burn scenario with a 113-run partnership; Siraj stikes twice after Tea to leave the visitors on 302 for seven at close of play

ENGLAND IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
RANCHI

In recent times, the inflexibility of the demands the England cricket team has placed on itself has more or less stopped it from adapting to an alternative reality.

It did seem like that until lunch on day one of the fourth Test against India at the JSCA Stadium here, as the visitors, after choosing to bat, raked up 112 runs in 24.1 overs in true Bazball style but lost five wickets.

But Joe Root and Ben Foakes finally deviated from England’s thrill-a-minute plan A to avoid a crash-and-burn scenario to lead the rescue act with a 113-run partnership.

At close, England reached 302 for seven, with Root on 106 (226b, 9x4) and Ollie Robinson on 31 (60b, 4x4, 1x6). It was Root’s highest since the century in the first Ashes Test last June in Birmingham, 14 innings ago.

Slow and steady: Root dropped anchor as the ball lost its hardness and the winter sun beat down. K.R. DEEPAK

Three-wicket burst

If the post-lunch and post-tea sessions belonged to England, the morning was India’s, especially debutant pacer Akash Deep’s, who rocked the away side’s top-order with a splendid three-wicket burst.

Pre-match, much of the talk was around how the 22-yard strip would behave and the opening morning didn’t do much for it to die down. As early as the first over, Zak Crawley had to fend off a snorter from Mohammed Siraj that rose up to his chin.

When Crawley was on four Akash nipped one back sharply to send his off-stump cartwheeling, only for it to be a no-ball.

After Akash’s debut wicket was delayed, Crawley asserted himself (42, 42b, 6x4, 1x6), smashing Siraj for three boundaries and a six in the seventh over.

But a subdued Ben Duckett turned out to be Akash’s maiden Test victim, out caught behind off a delivery that left him. Akash’s joy doubled two balls later when he trapped Ollie Pope in front. The 27-year-old would soon have Crawley, disturbing the off-stump with a delivery that came in sharply.

Ashwin has his revenge

Jonny Bairstow entertained for a while (38, 35b, 4x4, 1x6), with the cross-batted six off R. Ashwin catching the eye. But the off-spinner had his revenge when he drew a sweep and had him leg-before. A shooter from Ravindra Jadeja caught Ben Stokes plumb as England went in to lunch at 112 for five.

But on return, Root and Foakes (47, 126b, 4x4, 1x6) dropped anchor as the cherry lost its hardness and the winter sun beat down. Root too seemed mindful of not going for the extravagant.

The 33-year-old’s half-century took 108 balls and had just four boundaries. The reverse sweep, the much-maligned of Root’s shots in the lead-up to this Test, didn’t appear until he was in the 70s. The determination served him well and he reached the three-figure mark with a beautiful driven four off Akash.

Playing second fiddle

Foakes played the perfect second fiddle. At times, Ashwin bowled with four catching men on the leg-side but the wicket-keeper batter still penetrated the field and hit him for two fours and a six.

After tea, Siraj struck twice, having Foakes caught at short mid-wicket and then squaring Tom Hartley up to rearrange his stumps. But Root and Robinson put on 57 unbeaten runs to keep the English flame flickering.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS
Zak Crawley b Akash 42 *(42b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Ben Duckett c Jurel b Akash 11 *(21b, 1x4)*, Ollie Pope lbw b Akash 0 *(2b)*, Joe Root (batting) 106 *(226b, 9x4)*, Jonny Bairstow lbw b Ashwin 38 *(35b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Ben Stokes lbw b Jadeja 3 *(6b)*, Ben Foakes c Jadeja b Siraj 47 *(126b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Tom Hartley b Siraj 13 *(26b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Ollie Robinson (batting) 31 *(60b, 4x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-6, nb-4): 11; Total (for seven wkts. in 90 overs): 302.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-47 (Duckett, 9.2 overs), 2-47 (Pope, 9.4), 3-57 (Crawley 11.5), 4-109 (Bairstow 21.2), 5-112 (Stokes, 24.1), 6-225 (Foakes, 67.4), 7-245 (Hartley, 75.3).

INDIA BOWLING
Siraj 13-3-60-2, Akash 17-0-70-3, Jadeja 27-7-55-1, Ashwin 22-1-83-1, Kuldeep 10-3-21-0, Jaiswal 1-0-6-0.

Toss: England.

Want to dedicate this to my father: Akash

N. Sudarshan
RANCHI

Years of toil, personal setbacks and the extended wait for a senior team cap is a story arc that many an Indian cricketer traces. It is no different for Akash Deep, the 27-year-old Bengal speedster who made a memorable Test debut (3/70) in Ranchi against England on Friday.

"Like any kid, my dream was to play Tests for India," said Akash, who hails from Sasaram in adjoining Bihar's Rohtas district. "I got my Test cap midway between the place I belong to and the place I play cricket for. It was very emotional as I felt that there was a responsibility on my shoulders to do something."

Akash's dreams of being a cricketer were nurtured in the industrial city of Durgapur (West Bengal) where he first went under the pretext of finding a job. The passing of his father and brother, however, took out three years as he looked to make ends meet and support his mother. But cricket remained his calling.

"When I lost my father and my brother in the same year, I wanted to do something in life. When you lose two family members, you don’t have much to lose but only gain. I left home (in 2016) and Bengal really supported me. I got a very good environment to flourish there."

In Bengal's two recent runs to the Ranji Trophy final, Akash, alongside fellow India pacer Mukesh Kumar, has played a stellar role. In 2019-20, his debut season, he took 35 First Class wickets and in 2022-23, he finished with 42 scalps, helping him earn a call-up to the India-A set-up and subsequently to the Test squad.

Akash Deep...a memorable debut. K.R. DEEPAK

> I got my Test cap midway between the place I belong to and the place I play cricket for. It was very emotional

"I didn’t even know cricket as a kid," Akash confessed. "The place I came from had no cricket. From 2007 onwards, I played tennis-ball cricket. I started knowing [actual] cricket after I left home.

"I want to dedicate this performance to my father. He wanted his son to do something in his life but I couldn't do anything while he was alive. So this is for him."

Bipin’s brace propels Mumbai City to second spot

Saikat Chakraborty
CHENNAI

Mumbai City FC registered a 2-0 win over host Chennaiyin FC in the Indian Super League on Friday.

Second-half substitute Bipin Singh scored both the goals for the Islanders, who vaulted above Mohun Bagan Super Giant to join league leader Odisha FC. Both MCFC and OFC have 31 points from 15 matches, but the latter is ahead on goal difference.

Chennaiyin started as the brighter of the two sides, creating early chances; however, it was Mumbai City which gradually took control of the proceedings.

Despite numerous opportunities on both ends, the first half remained barren. The second half witnessed a shift in momentum.

Mumbai City upped the tempo and earned a penalty when Thaer Krouma was brought down by Lazar Cirkovic inside the box in the 53rd minute. However, Lallianzuala Chhangte squandered the chance.

In the 71st minute, Bipin headed home a Krouma cross to break the deadlock. He doubled the lead in stoppage time with a stunning left-footed curler.

Chennaiyin, missing its suspended coach Owen Coyle, rarely threatened Mumbai City’s citadel. The defeat left it languishing in the ninth spot.

The result:
Chennaiyin FC 0 lost to Mumbai City FC 2 (Bipin 71 & 90+1).

Sajana smashes a last-ball six as Mumbai Indians seals dramatic opener

WPL SEASON 2

Mayank Chaudhary
BENGALURU

S. Sajana stole the show with a stunning six, after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (55, 34b, 7x4, 1x6) and Yastika Bhatia (57, 45b, 8x4, 2x6) starred in the chase, as Mumbai Indians clinched a last-ball thriller against Delhi Capitals in the Season 2 opener of the Women’s Premier League at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Friday.

The defending champion, pursuing a target of 172, won by four wickets off the final delivery when five runs were needed.

Kapp’s early strike

Marizanne Kapp made early inroads, removing the dangerous Hayley Matthews for a two-ball duck in the first over.

However, MI recovered quickly through Yastika and Nat Sciver-Brunt who took the side to 50 in the PowerPlay.

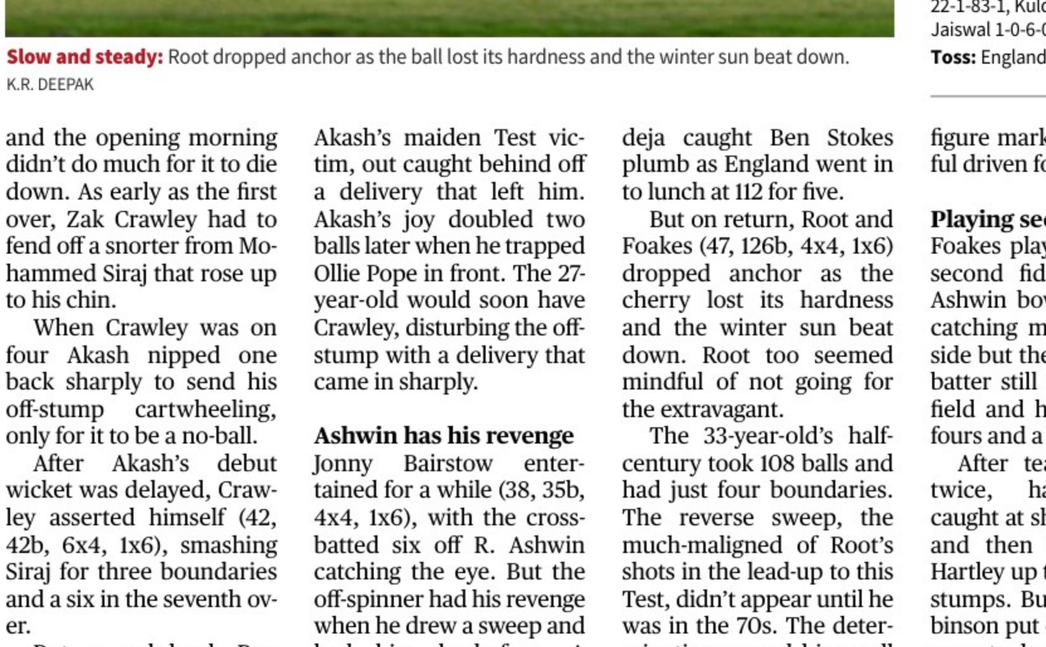
Meg Lanning’s decision to introduce Arundhati Reddy paid off as the medium-pacer dismissed Sciver-Brunt.

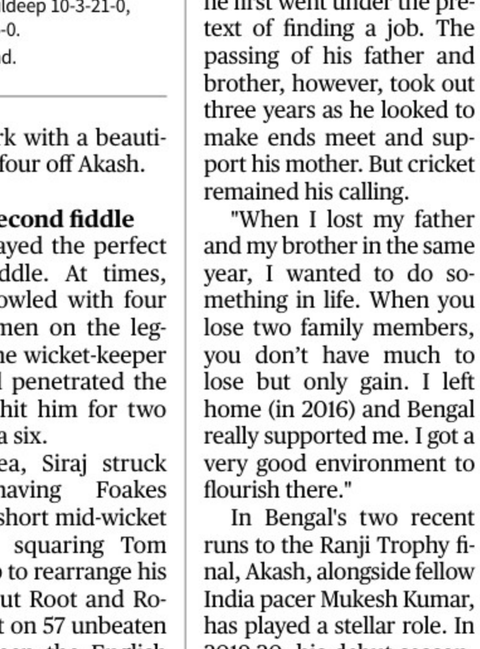
Yastika found another ally in Harmanpreet as the pair brought up the 100 in the 13th over. The equation was 12 off the final over. Lanning turned to Alice Capsey, who started positively by dismissing Pooja Vastrakar. Harmanpreet hit a boundary to reduce the target to five runs off two balls, but she holed out to Annabel Sutherland in the next. Sajana sealed a memorable win with a six over long-on.

Earlier in the evening, Shabnim Ismail got MI off to a dream start, conceding a solitary run in the opening over.

Capitals could manage only 26 in the PowerPlay, their lowest ever.

After Shafali Verma’s early dismissal, Capsey’s audacious strokeplay (75, 53b, 8x4, 3x6), which saw her target the straight boundaries, helped the Capitals shift gears. The Englishwoman went hard at leg-spinners Amelia Kerr and B. Keerthana, taking DC to 65 at the halfway mark. The all-rounder’s partnerships with Lanning (31, 25b, 3x4, 1x6) and Jemimah Rodrigues (42, 24b, 5x4, 2x6), along with a cameo from Kapp (16, 9b, 3x4), piloted Capitals to 171 for five in 20 overs. It looked enough till Sajana swung into action.





Incredible finish: With five needed off the final delivery, Sajana swung it MI’s way. Harmanpreet had earlier set the foundation for the chase. K. MURALI KUMAR

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS
Meg Lanning c Sajana b Sciver-Brunt 31 *(25b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Shafali Verma b Shabnim 1 *(8b)*, Alice Capsey lbw b Kerr 75 *(53b, 8x4, 3x6)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Yastika b Sciver-Brunt 42 *(24b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Marizanne Kapp st. Yastika b Kerr 16 *(9b, 3x4)*, Annabel Sutherland (not out) 1 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-2, nb-1): 5; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 171.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-3 (Shafali, 2.1 overs), 2-67 (Lanning, 10.4), 3-141 (Capsey, 17.1), 4-155 (Jemimah, 18.3), 5-171 (Kapp, 19.6).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Shabnim 4-0-24-1, Saika 3-0-17-0, Sciver-Brunt 4-0-33-2, Kerr 4-0-43-2, Keerthana 1-0-13-0, Matthews 2-0-21-0, Pooja 2-0-18-0.

MUMBAI INDIANS
Hayley Matthews c Taniya b Kapp 0 (2b), Yastika Bhatia c Kapp b Arundhati 57 (45b, 8x4, 2x6), Nat Sciver-Brunt b Arundhati 19 (17b, 2x4, 1x6), Harmanpreet Kaur c Sutherland b Capsey 55 (34b, 7x4, 1x6), Amelia Kerr b Shikha 24 (18b, 3x4), Pooja Vastrakar c Arundhati b Capsey 1 (3b), Amanjot Kaur (not out) 3 (2b), S. Sajana (not out) 6 (1b, 1x6); Extras (lb-3, w-3, nb-2): 8; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 173.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Matthews, 0.2), 2-50 (Sciver-Brunt, 6.1), 3-106 (Yastika, 13.2), 4-150 (Kerr, 17.6), 5-160 (Pooja, 19.1), 6-167 (Harmanpreet, 19.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Kapp 4-1-32-1, Shikha 4-0-32-1, Sutherland 4-0-38-0, Arundhati 4-0-27-2, Capsey 2-0-23-2, Radha 2-0-18-0.

Toss: Mumbai Indians.
PoM: Harmanpreet.
Mumbai Indians won by four wickets off the final delivery.
Saturday’s match: Royal Challengers vs UP Warriorz, 7.30 p.m.

CMYK
M BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Dheeraj Gowda — a unique phenomenon

Karnataka unleashed a unique phenomenon in ambidextrous Dheeraj Gowda on the first day of its Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Vidarbha here on Friday. Dheeraj, making his First Class debut, started by bowling right-arm off-spin to southpaws Atharva Taide and Yash Rathod. Later, to right-handers Karun Nair and Akshay Wadkar, the 17-year-old shifted to left-arm orthodox spin. The teenager was proficient with both guards. Dheeraj went wicketless in his 14 overs on Friday, but certainly piqued interest with his rare skill. – **Ashwin Achal**

RANJI SCORES, QUARTERFINALS, DAY 1

At Nagpur: Vidarbha 261/3 in 86 overs (Atharva Taide 109, Yash Rathod 93) vs Karnataka. **Toss: Karnataka**.
At Mumbai: Mumbai 248/5 in 90 overs (Musheer Khan 128 batting *(in pic)*, Bhargav Bhatt 4/82) vs Baroda. **Toss: Mumbai**.
At Coimbatore: Saurashtra 183 in 77.1 overs (Harvik Desai 83, Sai Kishore 5/66) vs Tamil Nadu 23/1 in 10 overs. **Toss: Saurashtra**.
At Indore: Madhya Pradesh 234/9 in 81 overs (Yash Dubey 64, Himanshu Mantri 49, Saransh Jain 41 batting, K.V. Sasikanth 4/37) vs Andhra. **Toss: MP**.

Sarita bags bronze; India shines in para category

Sarita Kumari secured a bronze in the junior women's category of the Asian track cycling championships in New Delhi on Friday. India also bagged two gold and a silver in the para category. A determined Sarita clocked 36.912s to book a spot in the final and went on to finish on the podium. Arshad Shaikh clinched his second gold by winning the 1km time trial C2 category while Aryavardhan Cheelampalli bagged a silver. Jyoti Gaderiya won gold in the 500m time trial (C2).

NZ crumbles as Australia win second T20I to clinch series

Adam Zampa took four for 34 as Australia bundled out New Zealand for 102 in 17 overs to win the second T20I by 72 runs here on Friday and take an insurmountable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

The scores: Australia 174 in 19.5 overs (Head 45, Cummins 28, Ferguson 4/12) bt New Zealand 102 in 17 overs (Phillips 42, Zampa 4/34). Toss: New Zealand. Australia leads three-match series 2-0.

Abhay in last four of Goodfellow Classic squash

Asian Games medallist and top seed Abhay Singh beat Frenchman Maceo Levy 13-11, 11-7, 11-3 to enter the semifinals of the Goodfellow Classic squash tournament, a $9000 Challenger Tour event, in Toronto. In Chicago, Ramit Tandon went down to Egyptian eighth seed Tarek Momen 11-5, 4-11, 4-11, 8-11 in 34 minutes in the second round of the Windy City Open, a PSA World Tour Platinum event.

Calicut Heroes breezes past Delhi Toofans

Calicut Heroes picked up its second win of the third season of the RuPay Prime Volleyball League at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai, on Friday, defeating Delhi Toofans 15-8, 15-13, 16-14. Jerome Vinith was named the Player of the match. There is no match on Saturday.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs England: 4th Test, day 2, Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema, 9.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Jio Cinema, 9.30 a.m.
LaLiga: Jio Cinema, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m.& Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema, 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Serie A: Jio Cinema, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)
WPL: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & Hotstar, 8.30, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.
New Zealand vs Australia: 3rd T20I, Prime Video, 5.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Vidharbha takes the first day's honours as Karnataka's attack fails to make inroads

Taide and Rathod play the waiting game, punish the loose deliveries to put on 184 for the second wicket before the latter falls to a well laid trap

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
NAGPUR

Patient knocks from Atharva Taide (109, 244b, 16x4, 1x6) and Yash Rathod (93, 157b, 12x4) put Vidarbha on top on the first day of its Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Karnataka at the VCA Stadium (Civil Lines) here on Friday.

A 184-run second-wicket stand between Taide and Rathod laid the platform for Vidarbha to reach 261 for three.

Opener Taide stood like a rock to record his second century of the tournament.

Taide was happy to bide his time, leaving balls outside off and defending all threats with a straight bat. He took an old-school approach to the long format – simply bat for time.

The southpaw used timing and sharp footwork to put away the loose deliveries.

"The longer you bat, the better. This is the game plan of our entire team," Taide said.

The 23-year-old was dismissed in the 81st over, trapped leg-before by left-arm spinner Hardik Raj. Taide received two lives, on 26 and 44, when V. Koushik and the slips cordon put down chances.

Rathod played with more freedom, especially when the spinners came on.

It took a smart ploy to break the partnership. Pacer Vidwath Kaverappa stationed Nikin Jose at backward square-leg and bowled bouncers. Rathod fell for the trap, hooking one to Jose.

Taide, however, could not be lured in. "I was ready to take blows on my body, break my bones, fall down, but I was not ready to fall for the bouncer trap," Taide said.

Karun Nair, who only recently shifted allegiance from Karnataka to Vidarbha, played a few pleasing cover drives in his unbeaten 30.

Late in the day, Karun pushed hard at a length ball and lobbed it back to Koushik. The fast bowler, moving to his left on the follow through, stuck his right hand out but could not hold on to the catch.

Only a few quick wickets in the first session on Saturday can keep Karnataka alive.

Straight bat approach: Opener Taide stood like a rock to record his second century of the tournament. ASHWIN ACHAL

The scores:
Vidarbha — 1st innings: Atharva Taide lbw b Hardik 109, Dhruv Shorey lbw b Koushik 12, Yash Rathod c Jose b Kaverappa 93, Karun Nair (batting) 30, Akshay Wadkar (batting) 2; Extras (b-6, lb-6, w-3): 15; Total (for three wickets, in 86 overs): 261.
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-206, 3-251.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 18-4-67-1, Koushik 21-5-31-1, Vyshak 18-5-39-0, Dheeraj 14-0-51-0, Hardik 8-1-39-1, Samarth 7-2-22-0.

Schopman resigns as Indian women's hockey team coach

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Indian women's hockey team chief coach Janneke Schopman resigned on Friday, days after creating a furore by claiming that she was not valued and respected enough by the National federation.

The Dutchwoman had taken over the reins in 2021 from Sjoerd Marijne, who had led the side to a historic fourth position at the Tokyo Olympics.

Schopman's contract was to end in August this year after the Paris Games but following her recent critical comments, it was expected that she wouldn't continue.

Hockey India (HI) informed that the 46-year-old coach tendered her resignation to Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey after the conclusion of the home leg of the FIH Hockey Pro League in Odisha.

"At the back of the disappointment at the recent Olympic qualifiers, her resignation has paved the way for Hockey India to look for a suitable chief coach who could prepare the Indian team for the next women's World Cup in 2026 and Los Angeles Olympics 2028," said Hockey India in a release.

Schopman. PTI

Fresh chapter

"It's time to begin a fresh chapter in Indian women's hockey with the players progress being at the centre of our focus," the statement added.

India women eye victory against Hong Kong

Press Trust of India
ALANYA

Having played determined football to get the better of Estonia 4-3 in its opening match, India would be looking forward to another successful outing when they it faces Hong Kong in the Turkish Women's Cup here on Saturday.

The win against Estonia was the first-ever for a senior Indian women's team against an European side, and it would have raised the morale of the Chaoba Devi-coached side in the four-team round-robin tournament.

This will be India's fifth encounter against Hong Kong, ranked 79th in the FIFA rankings, and India would be buoyed by the fact that it has won all four previous games, netting 11 goals, while the opponents have managed just two.

In their most recent clash, a friendly in 2019, India won by a solitary goal courtesy Pyari Xaxa, who also scored in India's victory against Estonia.

BFC will be keen to get back to winning ways

ISL-10

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC will be keen to get back to winning ways when it takes on bottom-placed Hyderabad FC at the Kanteerava Stadium, in Bengaluru, on Saturday.

The Blues, who come into the game following an away defeat to Mumbai City FC last week, take on Thangboi Singto's boys, who are yet to pick up a win this season and have just four points from 15 games.

"The fixture against Mumbai was a big step for us in our progress. The chances that we created – three very good ones – deserved to be converted," Renedy Singh, Bengaluru FC's assistant coach, said.

Renedy, alongside Argentinian Sebastian Vega, will take charge of the Blues in the absence of head coach Gerard Zaragoza, who faces a touchline ban. HFC's coach, on the other hand, will want his young players to mature and deliver some promising outcomes that could ignite a glimmer of hope in their final few rounds of the league.

"We have played against Sunil Chhetri and other national team players in BFC. They have strong centre backs. Bengaluru is a fighter of a team and one that is competitive too," he said before the game.

Main man: Williams will be keen on scoring again against HFC. X@BENGALURUFC

Services routs Arunachal Pradesh

Sports Bureau

Services overwhelmed host Arunachal Pradesh 4-0 in a Group A league match of the final round of 77th National football championship for the Santosh Trophy at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh on Friday.

Bikash Thapa struck twice after Samir Murmu and J. Vijay had found the net once each.

Later, a 10-man Assam picked up its first win by downing Meghalaya 2-1. Milan Basumatary and Joydeep Gogoi found the target for Assam while Sheen Shoktung produced the only reply for Meghalaya.

Assam went down to 10 men in the 55th minute when goalkeeper Birkhang Daimary was given a direct red card.

The results: Group A: Services 4 (Samir Murmu 11, J. Vijay 23, Bikash Thapa 52, 56) bt Arunachal Pradesh 0; Assam 2 (Milan Basumatary 8, Joydeep Gogoi 45) bt Meghalaya 1 (Sheen Shoktung 32); Goa 2 (Necio Fernandes 45, 59) bt Kerala 0.

Dane Sweeny escapes from the clutches of Niki Poonacha

MAHA OPEN

Kamesh Srinivasan
PUNE

Dane Sweeny of Australia saved two match points, bounced back from being down 2-5 in the decider, to beat Niki Poonacha 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(3) in the quarterfinals of the $133,250 Maha Open Challenger tennis at the Balewadi Stadium on Friday. Constantly cheered by the fans, Poonacha, who had knocked out top seed Sumit Nagal in the earlier round, did everything right except the finishing act, in a gripping contest.

To his credit, the Aussie was a fighter to the core. He saved the two match points on his serve in the eighth game of the third set. He pushed Poonacha and the errors overtook the Indian in the end. Poonacha also saved two match points from 1-6 in the tie-break, but hit one long to bring the curtains down on his challenge.

It was also the end of the Indian challenge, as S. Mukund gave a walkover to Adam Walton of Australia owing to food poisoning.

Sweeny. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

The doubles champions of the last two events in Chennai and Bengaluru, Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan were beaten by the Aussie duo of Tristan Schoolkate and Walton in straight sets.

It was another bitter pill to swallow for the home fans, when top seeds Arjun Kadhe and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan failed to win a set in their semifinal against Dan Added and Yunseong Chung.

The results: Quarterfinals: Dane Sweeny (Aus) bt Niki Poonacha 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(3); Valentin Vacherot (Mon) bt Enzo Couacaud (Fra) 7-6(2), 6-4; Adam Walton (Aus) w/o S. Mukund. Duje Ajdukovic (Cro) bt Alexey Zakharov 6-4, 6-3.
Doubles: Semifinals: Dan Added (Fra) & Yunseong Chung (Kor) bt Arjun Kadhe & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 6-3, 6-4; Tristan Schoolkate & Walton (Aus) bt Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-6(6), 6-2.

It's Aldgate vs. Sofiya in feature event

BENGALURU: Aldgate and Sofiya may fight out the finish of the P.V. Shetty Memorial Cup (1,200m), the main event of the races to be held here on Saturday (Feb. 24). False rails (width about 7.75m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 RAICHUR PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 25, 1-30 p.m.: 1. Eco Friendly (3) Vivek 61.5, 2. Elizabeth Regina (2) P. Surya 61.5, 3. Tankinika (7) S. Shareef 61.5, 4. My Visionary (9) Arvind K 60, 5. Marco Polo (4) I. Chisty 59.5, 6. Sea Diamond (1) P. Sai K 59.5, 7. Recreator (6) Saddam H 59, 8. Quevega (8) M. Rajesh K 57.5 and 9. Pettes Love (5) M. Naveen 56.
1. MARCO POLO, 2. ECO FRIENDLY, 3. MY VISIONARY

2 MAJ. C. NEWTON-DAVIS MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-00: 1. Gismo (8) Vivek 56, 2. Joyful Spirit (9) M. Naveen 56, 3. Supercharge (2) R. Pradeep 56, 4. Daring Falcon (3) P. Surya 54.5, 5. Inspire (1) Srinath 54.5, 6. Joon (7) I. Chisty 54.5, 7. Martino (4) Arvind K 54.5, 8. Rise And Reign (6) P. Siddaraju 54.5 and 9. Super Bold (5) Arshad 54.5.
1. INSPIRE, 2. GISMO, 3. RISE AND REIGN

3 MUSSOORIE STAKES (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Air Display (3) Vivek 60, 2. Anakin (7) P. Surya 59.5, 3. Solo Prince (10) P. Siddaraju 59.5, 4. Armstrong (8) Shreyas 58, 5. Kallu Sakkare (6) R. Pradeep 57, 6. Southern Force (4) I. Chisty 57, 7. Classic Charm (1) Darshan 56, 8. Ultimate Striker (5) L.A. Rozario 56, 9. Four Wheel Drive (2) Arshad 54.5, 10. Macron (11) Arvind K 54.5 and 11. Lauterbrunnen (9) M. Rajesh K 53.
1. KALLU SAKKARE, 2. MACRON, 3. AIR DISPLAY

4 RED FORT PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. Seventh Samurai (5) S. John 60, 2. Treasure Chest (4) Srinath 59, 3. Everyone Godfather (7) B. Harish 57.5, 4. Friya (8) I. Chisty 56, 5. Contractor (2) P. Surya 55.5, 6. Sunlit Path (1) S. Shareef 55.5, 7. The Blissfulelysee (9) M. Naveen 55.5, 8. Chiraag (6) Saddam H 55 and 9. Samachar (3) Vivek 54.
1. SEVENTH SAMURAI, 2. TREASURE CHEST, 3. SAMACHAR

5 MAHADAYI PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 3-30: 1. Twinkle Feet (8) P. Siddaraju 60, 2. Worldly Wise (6) R. Pradeep 60, 3. Ooh La La (2) Rayan 58, 4. Breeze Bluster (7) Darshan 57, 5. Phoenix Surprise (1) Shreyas 54.5, 6. Domina (9) Vivek 54, 7. Capri Girl (10) P. Surya 53.5, 8. Knotty In Blue (4) Jagadeesh 53.5, 9. Mega Success (3) I. Chisty 52.5 and 10. Burning Arrow (5) M. Rajesh K 50.
1. OOH LA LA, 2. KNOTTY IN BLUE, 3. BREEZE BLUSTER

6 MAJ. C. NEWTON-DAVIS MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Adelanto (6) Arvind K 56, 2. Jordano (3) L.A. Rozario 56, 3. Puranjaya (5) Jagadeesh 56, 4. Star Honour (7) Darshan 56, 5. Bowen (4) P. Surya 54.5, 6. Del Aviz (1) Srinath 54.5, 7. Magnetic (2) I. Chisty 54.5 and 8. Silicon Star (8) R. Pradeep 54.5.
1. MAGNETIC, 2. DEL AVIS, 3. JORDANO

7 P.V. SHETTY MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), rated 60 to 85, 4-30: 1. Aldgate (2) S. John 60, 2. Tripitaka (3) I. Chisty 56.5, 3. English Bay (6) P. Surya 55.5, 4. Del Mar (7) Darshan 55, 5. Fearless Joey (5) B. Dharshan 54, 6. Maple Leaf (1) P. Siddaraju 54 and 7. Sofiya (4) Shreyas 51.5.
1. ALDGATE, 2. SOFIYA, 3. TRIPITAKA

8 RED FORT PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Blue God (4) S. John 61.5, 2. Serai (9) P. Siddaraju 61, 3. Amazing Attraction (3) Darshan 60, 4. The Republic Power (6) M. Naveen 60, 5. Irish Rockstar (2) I. Chisty 59, 6. Greeley (1) L.A. Rozario 58, 7. Nevada Gold (5) Jagadeesh 57.5, 8. Embosom (7) P. Surya 56.5 and 9. Schafenberg (8) Rayan 56.
1. IRISH ROCKSTAR, 3. BLUE GOD, 3. NEVADA GOLD

9 MAHADAYI PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5-30: 1. Remontoir (8) S. John 62.5, 2. Sheer Bliss (4) M. Chandrashekar 62, 3. Agera (3) P. Siddaraju 61.5, 4. Born Dancer (6) M. Naveen 61.5, 5. Measure Of Time (1) Salman Khan 61.5, 6. Step To Destiny (2) Vivek 61.5, 7. Osiris (7) Mark 60.5, 8. The Strikingly (9) R. Pradeep 57, 9. Peridot (10) L.A. Rozario 56.5 and 10. Baltimore (5) Arvind K 55.
1. THE STRIKINGLY, 2. BORN DANCER, 3. REMONTOIR

Day's best: **MAGNETIC**

Double: **INSPIRE – SEVENTH SAMURAI**

Jkt: 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6; (iii): 7, 8 and 9.

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಮೃಗಾಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎಂವೈಜೆಡ್/ACT/FEED/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2023–24 ದಿ: 21.02.2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)

(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಕೆ.ಜಿ–2ರ Indent No.18 Dt. 21.02.2024 ಕೆ.ಜಿ–2ರ Indent No.19 Dt. 21.02.2024 ಮತ್ತು Indent No.21 Dt. 21.02.2024 ರ ಅನ್ವಯ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/1154/2023-24 ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Deputy Director of School Education Department
Chamarajanagara District.
Email : ddpi.edu.karcmn@nic.in Telephone No. : 082226-222406

No. B5/02/S.F.S./13/2023-24 Date : 17-02-2024

SHORT TERM E-TENDER

Tender application are invited from 17-02-2024 to 26-02-2024 through E-procurement from eligible agencies for purchase of 1497 reversible desks Rs. 99,71,247/- for 85 Government Primary and high school of Chamarajanagara district for the academic year 2023-24 for more details, contact Deputy Director (administration) School Education Department Chamarajanagara in office hours. Contact no. : 08226-222406/9916275684.

Sd/- Deputy Director (Admin)
School Education Department
Chamarajanagar District.

DIPR : CHANAR:419:2023-24

Sr. No. 16/2024
Proclamation for person Absconding
Section 82 Cr.P.Code
IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE FIRST CLASS 'A' COURT AT MAPUSA-GOA.

Criminal Case No. 506/S/2022/A
State (Colvale Police Station), ...Complainant.
Versus
Shri. Asiz Asif, ... Accused.

WHEREAS a complaint has been made before this Court that the Accused Shri. Asiz Asif, S/o. Asiz Aslam, R/o. Dhumkuru Malekote. 5th main 6th cross, Tumkur, Banglaore, has committed or is suspected to have committed the offence punishable Under section 324, 224 of IPC, and a warrant of arrest issued by this Court against the accused has been returned unexecuted and that the said Accused - Shri. Asiz Asif, S/o. Asiz Aslam, R/o. Dhumkuru Malekote, 5th main 6th cross, Tumkur, Banglaore, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the Accused Shri. Asiz Asif, S/o. Asiz Aslam, R/o. Dhumkuru Malekote, 5th main 6th cross, Tumkur, Banglaore, has absconded.

PROCLAMATION is hereby made that the said Accused -Shri. Asiz Asif, S/o. Asiz Aslam, R/o. Dhumkuru Malekote, 5th main 6th cross, Tumkur, Banglaore, is required to appear before this Court on 04.03.2024 at 02.30 pm.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 02nd day of February, 2024.

sd/-
(Shilpa S. Pandit)
Judicial Magistrate First Class,
'A' Court, Mapusa-Goa

DI/ADVT/2024/2687/10302

Government of Karnataka
Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department
Office of the Director, No. 34, Lotus Towers, Race Course Road, Bangalore -560 001

No.: STWD/BEP/CR-16/2019-20/Call-3 Date:23.02.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal only)

The Director, Department of Scheduled Tribes Welfare has invited tenders through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for Providing 10 Mobile Health Unit Services for Scheduled Tribe people in 5 Districts of Karnataka as detailed below :

Tender Details: Providing 10 Mobile Health Unit Services for Scheduled Tribe people in 5 Districts of Karnataka. Tender Starting Date: **22.02.2024** Last date for submission of tender:**07.03.2024.** Approx. tender amount: **Rs. 3,78,00,000/-**

Special Note : More details can be had from the Office of the Department of Scheduled Tribes Welfare during office hours. **Contact No: 080-22261787.**

Sd/- Deputy Director,
Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department

DIPR/CP/JA/3830/2023-24

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/DEVP/MAMS/Uniform/CR-03/2024-25 Date: 23.02.2024

Announcement of Short-Term Tender

The short-term tender has been invited by the directorate of Minorities for supplying two pairs of uniforms(Stitched) (one pair of white and one pair of color), Tie, Belts and Socks, to the students of Maulana Azad Model Schools working under Minority Welfare Department in the academic year 2024-25. Details are given below. Interested bidders should apply through online mode under e-Procurement portal.

Sl. No.	No. of Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	**23.02.2024.**
2.	Tender Amount:	**Rs. 669.86 Lakhs.**
3.	EMD Amount:	**Rs. 10,04,791/-**
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	**02.03.2024, 11.00 a.m.**
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	**26.03.2024 by 5:30 p.m.**
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	**28.03.2024 at 10:30 a.m.**
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	**30.03.2024 at 11:30 a.m.**
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone Number to be contacted	**080-22535902/ 080-22535912.**

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities

DIPR/CP/3852/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Department of Local Government

(World Bank-Goods/Services)
Reference No. NIT / S.E.(c)/21/2024

Municipal Corporation, Amritsar Invite Bids from the eligible bidders for the following Project funded from World Bank:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Amount
1	Compactors for storage for modernization of record rooms in Municipal Corporation Amritsar	Rs. 2,57.38 Lacs

Closing Date & Time : 18.03.2024 upto 02:00 PM
Pre-Bid Meeting : 01.03.2024 at 12:30 PM
Technical Bid Opening : 18.03.2024 upto 02:30 PM
For Detail log onto : https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note : Any Corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer(c),
Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

NA/12/22269/2023/32782

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
VIJAYANAGAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, BALLARI.
Cantonment Area, Director:8147796529, PA: 8147796539,
e-mail : vimsballaridirector@karnataka.gov.in ,
e-mail :directorvimsballari@gmail.com
website: www.vims.karnataka.gov.in

NO. VIMS/TENDER/GNL-1/12/2023-24 DATE:21.02.2024

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from providing Man power (107 No's) for Cleaning & Sanitation Services to Medical College, Govt. Dental College and Research Institute, College of Nursing, Govt. Wellesley TB & CD Hospital & Urban Health Centre,VIMS, Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**of Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit Tender in above said e-portal on or before **29/02/2024up to 5.00 PM**.The total approximate cost of re-tender is **Rs.198.00 Lakhs**. Further details may be obtained in the above said website and **www.vims.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/- Dean & Director, VIMS, Ballari

DIPR/Ballari/887/KSMCA/2023-24

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Parisara Bhavana, No.49, Church Street, Bangalore-560001
Phone : 080-25581383, Fax : 080-25586321

No.:PCB/41/FIN/2023-24/2071 Date: 22-02-2024

CORRIGENDUM- SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GoK e-procurement platform www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites tenders from the reputed Chartered Accountants who are registered with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India for Internal Auditing of Accounts of the Board for the years 2024-25,2025-26 and 2026-27. The professional fees to be offered shall be quoted in schedule–B for the activities as indicated at 'A' & 'B' of tender document (functions & duties).

The interested Chartered Accountants are requested to visit the e-procurement web site :**http:// www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The tender will be commenced on **22-02-2024** and last date for uploading the filled tender document is **11-03-2024 upto 5.30 P.M.**

Tender will be opened on **12-03-2024 before 5.30 P.M.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

DIPR/CP/3842/AKAR/2023-24

Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief,
Planning And Road Asset Management Centre (PRAMC),
4th Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 560 001.

No. : PWD/71/TN/PRAMC/2023-24/1229 Date : 23-02-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka invites Short Term Tender for **01 Road Safety Work in Tumakuru District and 01 Service.** Further details can be obtained form **Karnataka E-procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 23-02-2024 onwards.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PRAMC., PWD, Bengaluru.

DIPR/Urban/3838/Manipal/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
Department of School Education
(PRE-UNIVERSITY)
18TH CROSS, MALLESWARAM, BENGALURU-560012
No: DPUE-ACA0OTH/35/38/2024 Date: 23.02.2024

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION-CALL-2
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

As announced in state budget of 2023-24, 60 colleges in aspirational talukas have been chosen as Aadarsha PU Colleges to improve Science Education. The following 2 Re-tenders have been called in KPP Portal to implant the Scheme.

Sl. No.	Explanation	Tender Number	Amount Rs. in Lakhs
1	All in one Computers Desktop	PUED/2023-24/ IND0006	867
2	Interactive Display Boards	PUED/2023-24/ IND0005	180

The tender details are available in the website **https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The date for commencement of re-tender Date: 23.02.2024 and Last date is **01.03.2024 at 5.30 p.m.** For more details conact E-Procurement portal.

Sd/- Director, Department of School Education(PU)

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

BESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform from eligible Bidders for PSCC Pole – 9 Mtr Long 200Kg WL,

Sl. No.	Nomenclature	Enquiry No
1	Procurement of 9 Mtr 200 KG PSCC Poles for BMA(S&N)Z & Ramanagar Circle	BESCOM/2023-24/ IND0026 Call-2
2	Procurement of 9 Mtr 200 KG PSCC Poles for Bengaluru Rural Circle LOT-1	BESCOM/2023-24/ IND0027 Call-2
3	Procurement of 9 Mtr 200 KG PSCC Poles for Bengaluru Rural Circle LOT-2	BESCOM/2023-24/ IND0028 Call-2

Bid Documents available : 26.02.2024 onwards

Last date for Bid Submission : 04.03.2024 16:00 Hrs

Opening of Bid Document : 05.03.2024 16:15 Hrs

The Tender can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal web-site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Further Bidders can take assistance from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal help desk with contact numbers **+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777)** or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Sd/-
General Manager (Ele),
Procurement, BESCOM, 4th Floor,
K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 001

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No: EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/23/2023-24
Dated: 21-02-2024

KPPP SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the works approved Under JJM Head of Grants for the year 2022-23 Under Two Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 28-02-2024 upto 4.00 PM.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3831/ Adverto/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Office of the Executive Engineer
MI & GWD Division, Mandya

No:EE:MID:MDY:TB:2023-24/1159 Date:21.02.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO : 06/2023-24, Dated : 21-02-2024.

ItemWise Tenders are invited from registered and eligible contractors under " KPPP - Procurement " Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender bid documents KW-4. Under the Head of Account 4702- Anekat and Pickups there is 01 No's of works and 4711-Flood Protection there is 01 No of work. Amount put to tender ranging as Rs. 495.00 Lakhs. Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office up to dated : **28.02.2024** during office hours. The tenders may be uploaded (Technical and Financial bids to be uploaded separately) with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website " www.kppp.karnataka.govt.in " upto dated : 29.02.2024 up to 17-15 Hours. Technical bids of the bidders will be opened on dated :02.03.2024 at 10-00 AM. Financial bids of the bidders will be opened on dated : 04-03-2024 at 10-00 AM. All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all works or any of the work of this tender by the under signed. Terms and conditions required for the each work is published in the " KPPP - Procurement " Tender Portal. Any additional information is available at the office of the undersigned. Any corrections regarding the works will be published in " kppp " portal only.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Mandya.

DIPR/AD-MDY/KSMCA/584/2023-24

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
(Dy. CE/Hydel Project PSPCL, Patiala Contact Number 9646118754)

Tender Enquiry No. 315/HPs/ED-II/RSD-132 Dated: 22.02.2024

Dy. CE/Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala Invites E-Tender for Design, Manufacture, Supply and Supervision of erection, testing & commissioning of 2 nos. 13.8KV/220/√3 KV, 62.5 MVA Single Phase Generator Transformers for RSD Powerhouse, Shahpurkandi.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 28.02.2024 onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C-156/24 76155/12/2746/2023/32841

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Electrical), BBMP, West Division, #98, 8th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003

No.: EE(Ele)/W/TN/03/2023-24 Date: 21.02.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through e-Procurement)

Executive Engineer, Elec (West), invites tenders from eligible contractors for the works detailed in the table given below. The contractors may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the table in appropriate class registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike / CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / any State or Cental Govt. Organization.

Sl. No.	Works in Wards	Est. Cost (in Lakhs)	EMD in Rs.
	Providing Electrical related Works		
	Work Reserved for Schedule Caste (S.C.)		
1 to 8	**Ward Nos.** 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 60, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143. **(Number of Works:8)**	4.00 to 20.00	5,000/- to 25,000/-
	Work Reserved for Schedule Tribes (S.T.)		
9 to 11	**Ward Nos.** 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 157. **(Number of Works:3)**	4.00 to 10.00	5,000/- to 12,500/-
	Work Reserved for General Category (Others)		
12 to 42	**Ward Nos.** 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129,130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159. **(Number of Works:31)**	2.50 to 45.00	3125/- to 45,000/-

Calendar of events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. (2)** Tender forms available for downloading from **26.02.2024. (3)** Last date for submission of tender document is **04.03.2024** upto **4:00 p.m. (4)** Date of opening of tenders is on **06.03.2024** at **11:00 a.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elec.), West Division, BBMP

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Manoj Kashyap S/o Votegore Krishnamurthy Gopinath R/o # 3325, 3rd Block, 3rd Floor, Janapriya Bharath Enclave, Sunkadakatte, B'lore 560091 have changed my name to G Manoj Kashyap for all purposes

I, Deepak Poojari S/O, Bhaskar R/o No 90, 4th Main Road, 8th Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Bhattarahalli, Unosafe Elevator Pvt Ltd, Bangalore North, Po: Virgonagar , Bengaluru 560049, Karnataka have changed my name to Deepak Bhaskar Poojary.

I, SHAGUFTA, D/o Muneer Ahmed, R/at No.340, 6th A Cross, 29th A Main, BTM Layout, 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560076, have changed my name from Shagufta to Shagufttha.M, vide Affidavit dated 10/02/2024 before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

LOST & FOUND

It is notified for the information that my original Bachelor of Technology Degree Certificate, passed in April 2013, Course - Computer Science and Engineering and Register Number: 12100055 issued by Cochin University of Science and Technology has been lost. Name: Richa Suman. Address: Flat No-2102, Tower2, DSR Parkway, Chikkabellandur, Off Sarjapur Road, Carmelaram , Bangalore 560035. Mobile-9886471275

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE Prl.JUNIOR CIVIL JUDGE DHARMAVARAM
E.P.No: 97/2019 in O.S.No: 23/2018

Between:
1) T.Riyaz S/o Kasim Peera D/No:18/784-2, Darga Street , Dharmavaram
2) T.Juber S/o T.Fakruddin, D/No: 16-198, Hospital Street, Dharmavaram ...D.Hrs
And
S.H. Jahangeer Sab. ... J.Dr

Notice to J.Dr

S.H. Jahangeer Sab S/o Shahul Hameedh(Athavu) R/of D/No:18, 19th Cross, BTM Layout Out, Bangalore City, Karnataka State. The above case is posted for your appearance on **26-02-2024** So be pleased to present before the Hon'ble court either personally or through advocate between **10.30 A.M to 05.00 P.M** without fail. If fails to present through out period the matter will be decided as exparte. So be pleased to present with if any material.

(By order of the court)
M.A. KAREEM, Advocate,
Dharmavaram,Sree Sathya Sai Dist,
Andhra Pradesh, Cell:9346502099

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE VII ADDL. SESSION CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-19)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 6562 OF 2019
Hg 20/03/2024

BETWEEN :
M/s ICICI BANK LIMITED, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and a banking company within the meaning of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and having its registered office at ICICI Bank Tower, Bandra Kurala Complex, Mumbai- 400 051, Having branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd ICICI Tower, No. 4/10, M.G. Road, Cottonpet Cross, Kolar- 563 101. Represented by its Power of Attorney Holder, Sri Jayakumar S/o Jagadish. ...PLAINTIFF

AND :
Mr. Lokesh S.V.
Aged about 30 years, S/o Venkatarayappa R/at, 1180, 1st Cross Grass Land, 1st Cross, Gowtham Nagara, Robertsonpet,, KGF, Kolar-563 122
Also at :
Sonnaganahalli, Sadali Post, Shidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkabalapura- 562 104
...DEFENDANTS

Summons/Notice through Paper Publication

Mr. Lokesh S.V.
Aged about 30 years, S/o Venkatarayappa, R/at, 1180, 1st Cross Grass Land, 1st Cross, Gowtham Nagara, Robertsonpet, KGF, Kolar-563 122
Also at :
Sonnaganahalli, Sadali Post, Shidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkabalapura- 562 104
...DEFENDANTS

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount **Rs.3,48,217/- (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Seventeen Only)** together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by a advocate/pleader on **20/03/2024** at **11.00 AM** to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determined as **"EX-PARTE".**

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 20th day of February, 2024.

By order of the Court
The Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Bengaluru.

Advocates for Plaintiff
Mr. K.N. Arvinda Navada
Advocate
No. 177/1, (88), 1st Floor, Besides 12th Cross, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru- 560 002

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ADMISSIONS NOTICE 2024

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Group B : Diploma in Nursing, AHS Diploma Courses, AHS PG Diploma, MSc Bioethics, Biostatistics, Medical Physics, Epidemiology, Clinical Nutrition & Nuclear Medicine Technology. MPH (Master of Public Health), MHA (Master of Hospital Administration), MPT (Master of Physiotherapy), MOT (Advanced OT in Neurology, Paediatrics, Mental Health), Fellowships in Antimicrobial Stewardship for Clinical Pharmacists, Hospital Quality Management (FHQM) & Hospital Chaplaincy courses.

CERTIFICATE COURSES
POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP COURSES
M.S. BIOENGINEERING COURSE

The last date for online application submission with payment for Group A & B courses is 21st March 2024, Certificate & PDF courses is 7th May 2024 and MS Bioengineering course is 4th June 2024.

For more details refer Admission Bulletins available at CMC, Vellore website
http://admissions.cmcvellore.ac.in

Important Information: The admission process contained in the Bulletins shall be subject to any order that maybe passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court / High Court / any other statutory enactments that maybe passed by the Central or State Government. ***REGISTRAR***

COLLEGE OF NURSING
VELLORE, TN - 632 004 Email: registrarcon@cmcvellore.ac.in

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Application form can be accessed & submitted only online through the College website till 21st March 2024.

Please refer to Admission Bulletin (available at our website) for Course details, eligibility criteria etc. ***REGISTRAR***

PUBLIC NOTICE

The **General Public** are **CAUTIONED** not to be lured by any person offering admission to any of the courses conducted by CMC Vellore. The college will not be responsible for any candidates or parents dealing with such person / persons. Civil and a criminal court proceeding will be taken up against any person who holds out promises and also uses the institutions intellectual properties.

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CMC VELLORE ADMINISTRATION

M BG-BGE

Man City, Arsenal will look to close the gap on Liverpool

Guardiola's men aiming for fourth straight League crown; Arteta's third-placed side will be just two points behind Liverpool if it beats Newcastle

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

With Liverpool in League Cup final action against Chelsea on Sunday, the chasing pack has a chance to close the gap on the Premier League leader. Manchester City can move within one point of Jurgen Klopp's team if it wins the game in hand at Bournemouth, while Arsenal must beat Newcastle to stay in touch with the title pacesetters.

Declan Rice has urged Arsenal to use the frustration from its Champions League last-16 first-leg loss at Porto to fuel the bid for Premier League glory.

Mikel Arteta's third-placed side will be just two points behind Liverpool if it beats Newcastle at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday, but a defeat would be a major blow to a bid for a first title since 2004.

Manchester City has no concerns over Erling Haaland's form, according to teammate Oscar Bobb.

Key player: Haaland needs to be at his sparkling best to spur City's pursuit of Liverpool. AFP

After scoring in just one of his previous seven matches – two goals against Everton – Haaland silenced his critics with a priceless winner against Brentford at home.

That kept City hot on Liverpool's heels in its chase for a fourth successive Premier League crown.

To make history, City boss Pep Guardiola will need Haaland at his sparkling best, but he fell below his own stellar standards when he missed several clear-cut chances in last weekend's 1-1 draw against Chelsea.

After Jim Ratcliffe finally completed his purchase of a 25% stake in Manchester United this week, the British billionaire boldly declared his desire to knock Liverpool and City off their perch.

Ratcliffe, 71, acknowledged it will take time to put United in position for a first title since 2013.

For now, Erik ten Hag's side has the more modest goal of trying to salvage a troubled campaign by qualifying for next season's Champions League via a top-four finish.

United, currently five points behind fourth-placed Aston Villa, have little margin for error as Fulham visits Old Trafford on Saturday to officially kick off the Ratcliffe era.

ROC loses appeal against suspension by IOC

Associated Press
LAUSANNE

The Russian Olympic Committee has lost an appeal against its suspension by the International Olympic Committee. The Court of Arbitration for Sport on Friday said it had dismissed the ROC's appeal against the suspension imposed in October.

The IOC objected to the ROC incorporating four sports bodies representing regions of eastern Ukraine.

The ROC can appeal to the Swiss supreme court.

The suspension removed the ROC's right to receive funding from the IOC but has not affected any Russians who are competing in international sports as neutral athletes

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Saloni 'tricks in Pass FC's romp

Saloni scored a hat-trick as Pass FC thrashed Young Stars FC 5-0 in the KSFA Women's A-division League here on Friday.

The results: United FC Kodagu 4 (Dhanashri Kadam 10, Anjali 22, K. Aishwarya 35, 58) bt Legends de Sporting Bengaluru 0; Pass FC 5 (Ishwarya 28, Saloni 26, 58, 60, Nivedha Elangovan 64) bt Young Stars FC 0.

Lokar nets AGORC FC's winner

Sudharshan V. Lokar's 41st minute strike proved the difference as AGORC FC edged out DYES FC 1-0 in the BDFA A-division league here on Friday.

The results: A-div: AGORC FC 1 (Sudharshan V. Lokar 41) bt DYES FC 0; **B-div:** Vehicles FC 1 (M. Rohit 9) bt Postal Dept FC 0; Stride FC 2 (Kiran Kumar 12, M.J. Bhanu 58) bt South India FC 0.

Kodava Samaja S&RC will take on SWR for top honours

Kodava Samaja S&RC will meet SWR, Hubballi in the final of the 24th Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa memorial hockey tournament.

The results (semifinals): Kodava Samaja S&RC 3 (V.R. Raghunath 8, 28, I.R. Nachappa 56) bt MEG Boys 1 (Bhavuk 29); SWR, Hubballi 1 (K.P. Somanna 34) bt AGORC 1 (Abharan Sudev 21) [On penalties, 5-4].

Ayus' good show in vain

Ayus Saha's all-round effort (4/24 & 69) went in vain as KLE English School, Malur defeated Army PS by 14 runs in the BTR Shield U-14 (Group I) third division tournament.

The scores: Zen International PS 73 in 27.1 overs lost to Soundarya Central School 77/1 in 11.1 overs (Aryan 46 n.o.).

The Oxford Senior Secondary School 70 in 18.2 overs lost to New Baldwin IS 72/1 in 10.2 overs (Manish 37 n.o.).

Deva Matha Central School 124 in 41 overs (Dheeraj 3/17) lost to PSBB Learning Leadership 125/7 in 38.2 overs (Kruday 70).

St. Ann's PS 78 in 25.4 overs (Aayush 4/3) lost to NPS 79/3 in 12 overs (Vismai 54 n.o.).

VSS International PS 111/9 in 30 overs (Akash 18, Anirudh Kattige 43 n.o.) lost to DPS, E-City 113/1 in 18 overs (Vrishruth 44 n.o.).

NPS, B-8 118 in 19.2 overs (Melvin Raaj 43, Kanishk Vijay 34, C. Rajeev 3/33, H.V. Tanav 3/17) bt National Academy for Learning 81 in 19.5 overs (Aadarsh 5/16, Rishan Manigandan 3/16).

KLE English School, Malur 175 in 25 overs (M.S. Gagan Gowda 32, Ayus Saha 4/24, Pranesh 3/39) bt Army PS 161 in 24 overs (Ayush Saha 69, Abhirudh 32, S. Manoj 3/42).

Sree Swaminarayan Gurukul IS 121 in 29.5 overs (Tanush Gowda 3/24, Namit 3/24) lost to Universal PS, Ramanagar 122/3 in 22.5 overs (Azeez 32).

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